

What is Foothills Child Advocacy Center?

Foothills Child Advocacy Center is a friendly, safe space for children who are alleged victims and their families to meet with the team members who will be working on their case.

How much time will the appointment take?

You should plan for at least two and a half hours for your appointment at Foothills to meet with team members.

What should I tell my child about the appointment?

Please tell your child that she or he will be meeting with a person whose job is to talk with children.

You can let your child know that “it’s okay to talk about anything, and it’s important to tell the truth.”

You should not tell your child what to say.

You can tell your child that they are safe and that they will not get in trouble for telling.

Can I ask my child what they know?

If your child or someone else has already told you what happened, please don’t ask the child again. This is very difficult, but it is important for your child not to talk about the event(s) before the appointment.

If your child has not told you, please don’t ask the child. You will find out more at the appointment.

When should I tell my child about the appointment?

Usually a day is enough time for a child to know about the appointment. Please tell them that all they will have to do is talk.

What if my child asks why we cannot talk about what happened?

Tell your child that the interviewer is a safe person to talk to about these kinds of things and that the interviewer talks with kids about these things because she knows the right questions to ask.

Who can come to Foothills?

If you need to bring other children with you, please try to bring someone to help watch them so that you can meet with the team. Offenders cannot be in the building.

If you don’t have anyone to help watch your children, please let Foothills’ staff know before your appointment.

What should I bring with me to Foothills?

Please do not bring any toys, electronic games, videos, food, drinks, or anything that will make your child lose focus.

Snacks are given after the interview.

What will happen during the appointment?

You will meet with team members such as a social worker, detective, interviewer, and family support person before and after your child’s interview.

Can I stay with my child during the interview?

It is important for the interviewer to talk with your child alone. Children can feel more scared or ashamed if they know their parents are watching.

The interview is recorded so that investigators do not have to keep talking to your child over and over again.

What will I do during my child’s interview?

The Foothills’ Family Support Specialist will meet with you during your child’s interview. This person will be glad to listen to your concerns and answer questions and try to help.

What will happen after the interview?

The team will meet with you after your child’s interview to answer questions and talk about what happens next.

Will I need to come back to Foothills?

Sometimes you will need to come back if the team decides another appointment would be helpful.

Should I ask my child about the interview?

You can ask how things went, but don’t ask for details.

You can remind your child that they are safe and that they are not in trouble for telling.

Dear Parent or Guardian,

At Foothills Child Advocacy Center, all of the professionals working on your case come together to meet with you and your child.

You will receive support and services to help you through the process.

A trained child forensic interviewer will do a child friendly and non-leading forensic interview. The interviewer will record the interview so that your child does not have to keep talking over and over with many professionals

Please feel free to contact us at Foothills to answer any questions or concerns that you may have.

You are not alone during this process. There are people to help you.

Sincerely,
Foothills Staff

Appointment Information

Date & Time: _____

Child(ren) to bring: _____

Contact Information

Child Protective Services/Phone

Detective/Phone

Victim Witness Advocate/Phone

Family Support Specialist/Phone

/434-971-7233

Directions

Driving

From Route 250, turn onto East High Street. Turn left onto 11th St. Turn left into the first alley (there is a sign for Foothills). Turn into the first parking lot on your left and park in a spot marked 1106.

Bus

Take Route 10 to the stop on East High Street. (stop #16512). Walk up the concrete steps to 1106 East High Street. Walk around to the back of the building to enter.

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A Guide for Parents and Guardians



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CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

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