

## The Forensic Interview

At Children's Cove our primary focus is on the healthiest outcome of the child victims and non-offending caregivers we support. One of the components to helping a child talk about what has happened is by limiting the amount of times they have to tell it, and to whom.

The forensic interview process allows investigating agencies to observe the interview as it is being conducted. This allows for a multi-disciplinary team approach to taking a child's statement, both protecting the integrity of the investigation as well as providing a victim focused and child friendly setting. The forensic interview is often a critical part of not only the initial investigation but also the criminal prosecution. It is done in a neutral, non-leading, developmentally sensitive, fact finding manner to maximize the amount of information needed for an investigation, but done in a way which minimizes the trauma to the child.

A child can stop the interview at any time if they are feeling uncomfortable and can always come back when they feel ready to talk about their experiences. Confidential translation services are also available for interviews for children where English is not their first language.

After a forensic interview a child and their non-offending family / caregivers will have access to mental health coordination, family advocacy and medical services. All service at Children's Cove are free.