

How can I help my teen after the interview?

Thank your child for talking to the interviewer and listen to them if they choose to talk about the interview. It's important not to pressure your child to talk about the interview.

Tell your teen that it is not their fault if something happened to them and that there are people who are going to help them.

Advocacy and Medical Resources:

Harborview Abuse & Trauma Center (HATC) - www.uwhatc.org

King County Sexual Assault Resource Center (KCSARC) – www.kcsarc.org

Directions to Interview:

Interviews are held at several locations in King County. Your detective will let you know where to go for your child's interview.

KCSARC

707 S Grady Way Suite 300
Renton, WA 98057

King County Courthouse

516 Third Avenue - 4th floor, Ellie's Place
Seattle, WA 98104

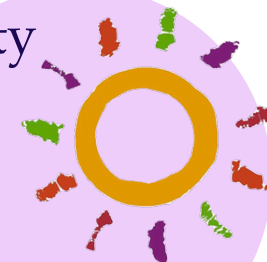
Children and Family Justice Center

1211 East Alder Street, 4th floor
Seattle, WA 98122

For more
information
please visit:

CJCKC.org

Children's Justice Center
of King County



Preparing your
Teenager for a
Forensic Interview



Who will talk to my teen?

Your child will be talking to a Child Interview Specialist. The Interviewer is specially trained in evidence-based interviewing techniques that allow teens to talk about things that might have happened when there are concerns that a crime may have occurred. The interviews are meant to be youth-friendly in all ways – from the look of the interview room to the interviewer's efforts to match the talking pace of your child. ***Your teenager will never be forced to talk and is allowed to take breaks or end the interview at any time.***

Feel free to share with the detective or advocate any information that you think the interviewer should have about your child, including any language delays or anxieties or fears about the interview.

How much advance notice should my teen be given?

As the parent or guardian you are the best judge about when to tell your child that they will be going to an interview. In general, telling your teen a couple days before the interview allows enough time so that the interview is not a surprise but does not cause a great deal of anxiety. An advocate is available to talk with you before the interview to answer any questions or concerns.



How can I help my child before the interview?

Let your child know that other kids and teens come to talk with the interviewer ***every day*** and that it is the interviewer's job to listen and learn about each youth. ***Give your teen permission to talk to the interviewer about anything that might have happened to them.*** Assure them that you will be nearby and available if they need you. Tell them that they are not in trouble, and remind them of the importance to tell the truth. You might say:

"I'm going to take you to see someone who talks to teens. Their job is to talk to kids and teens about things that might have happened to them. You are not in trouble. It's okay to tell everything that's happened. It's always important to tell the truth."



Do parents watch the interview?

No. The people who watch the interview are the detective and sometimes a social worker. ***Kids of all ages need to be able to talk in a place that is as neutral as possible and having a parent or guardian in the room or witnessing the interview makes that more difficult.*** Additionally, parents and/or guardians are often witnesses in potential legal cases and your testimony may be compromised by watching the child interview. The interview is recorded on video.

How long will the interview last? What happens when the interview is over?

The length of the interview will be shaped by your child - by their focus and attention, their pacing, and how much they have to say. ***Most interviews last approximately 45 - 60 minutes.***