



**Your Son/daughter is scheduled to have a medical exam.
Below is information about the exam before we get started.**

- **Who will be seeing my child to do the medical exam today?** The medical professional that will be seeing your child today is Dr. Michael Foxworth. Dr. Foxworth is board certified in Pediatrics and Pediatric Infectious Disease. He received specialized training in forensic medicals through the University of South Carolina Children's Advocacy Medical Response System.
- **Why does my child have to have a medical exam?** Forensic medical exams are completed to see if there is injury, to diagnose and treat sexually transmitted infections, and to identify and document any forensically significant findings, as well as any other medical conditions. The exam also provides reassurance that the child is healthy and receives any follow up care, if needed.
- **Can I come in the room when the exam is being done?** It is our protocol that the child will have the medical done without the parent present. Most children are more cooperative when they are by themselves and this is common practice throughout the child abuse field.
- **What happens during the exam?** During the exam the medical assistant will be present the entire time. Dr. Foxworth will check the body from head to toe, not focusing on any one part more than the other. This is **NOT** the same as a gynecological exam.
- **Will they take pictures of my child?** Pictures may be taken if there is suspicion of sexual abuse. This is to document injury, to have a point of reference, and to eliminate any future exams (if there is ever any question about this exam). Pictures will also be taken if there is suspicion of physical abuse and injury is found. The child may have to have labs, skeletal surveys, or a CT scan. You will be advised at the end of the exam.
- **A male doctor? I don't know how to feel about that.** Some parents are often concerned that the medical professional is a male. This exam is comparable to a physical exam that your child's pediatrician would give. We realize the circumstances are different, however, often times the child is not as nervous about the exam as the parent is. The medical assistant will explain everything to your child before Dr. Foxworth comes in and he will talk to them throughout the exam. Children are encouraged to ask questions and to tell us if they feel any discomfort.
- **My child went to the ER, what's the difference?** If your child had an exam at the emergency room, this is not the same. The exam in the ER is referred to as a SANE exam. The SANE exam and the forensic medical exam have two completely different goals. A SANE exam is needed for documentation of injuries and evidence collection. It is not for diagnostic purposes. The forensic medical exam, on the other hand, involves reviewing and comparing findings from the SANE exam and does provide a diagnostic assessment.
- **Will this exam prove that my child was sexually assaulted?** Research shows that the chance of abnormal findings in sexual abuse cases is between 5-15%. Therefore, if you are told that the exam is normal, that is to be expected and does not mean that nothing happened. Even if the abuse occurred a long time ago, the child still needs to be seen to rule out injury and to be reassured of their health.