



Can I watch the interview?

No. The interview is observed by the detective and sometimes a social worker. Children need to be able to talk in a neutral space. Having a parent or guardian in the room can compromise the integrity of the interview.

How long will the interview last?

Child interviews are generally 30 to 45 minutes long. This varies for each child and depends on their attention span, their pace of speaking, and how much they have to say. You will be able to speak with the detective after the interview.

How can I help my child after the interview?

Thank your child for talking to the interviewer. Listen if they choose to talk about the interview. It is important not to pressure them to talk about the interview. Assure them of your love and support no matter what was talked about. Remind them that they did nothing wrong. Let them know if something happened to them there are people to help them.

To Report Abuse:

If a child is in immediate danger call **911**
Puyallup Tribal Police 253-680-5656
CPS 1-866-End-Harm (1-866-363-4276)
Puyallup Children's Services
253-680-5532

Contact Us

Children of the River
Child Advocacy Center

3009 East Portland Avenue
Tacoma, WA 98404

Phone: 253-382-6060
Fax: 253-573-7955



Puyallup Tribe of Indians

**Children of the River
Child Advocacy Center**

WHAT TO EXPECT

FROM A CHILD FORENSIC INTERVIEW



**Children of the River
Child Advocacy Center**





Who will talk to my child?

Your child will be talking with a Child Interview Specialist. The interviewer is specially trained in evidence-based interviewing techniques that allow children to talk about what might have happened when there are concerns that a crime may have occurred. The interview is child friendly and your child will never be forced to talk. Your child can take a break or end the interview at any time.

It is important to share with the detective or advocate any information you think that the interviewer should know about your child, including any language delays, developmental delays, or fears about the interview.

When should I tell my child about the interview?

You are the best judge of when to tell your child that they are going to be interviewed and when. In general telling children the day before or the day of allows enough time so that the interview is not a surprise but also doesn't provoke a lot of anxiety. Be sure not to categorize the interview as a doctor's visit or other activity that your child may be distressed about.

How can I help my child before the interview?

- Let your child know that they will be coming to talk to a person who's job is to talk to kids.
- Give your child 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.
- Let them know that they are not in trouble.
- Remind them of the importance of telling the truth.
- Most kids have a limited attention span so please leave toys and technology at home.
- Ensure they have eaten and used the restroom prior to the interview.
- Remind them that the purpose is to talk and not play with the interviewer.

