
U.S. Center for SafeSport Child Interview FAQs

Who will be interviewing my child?

The Center has members of the investigative team who have received specialized training to speak with children about difficult or traumatic experiences and to gather all the necessary information to complete a thorough investigation. The interview is objective, fact finding, and developmentally appropriate to the child's needs.

Your child's needs come first, and the interviewer's goal is to make your child as comfortable as possible. The interviewer moves at a pace that is comfortable with your child and never forces a child to talk to them. Breaks can also be taken during the interview.

How will the interview be conducted?

Depending upon the misconduct being investigated and other scheduling variables, the interview may be held virtually (i.e., Zoom) or in person. If the interview is to be conducted in-person, the interviewer will attempt to schedule at a local Child Advocacy Center ("CAC").

CACs are child friendly as well as a neutral and safe environment geared towards reducing the stress of the interview on your child. If a CAC is not available, they will choose a private, neutral location free from distraction for the interview to be conducted.

Can I be in the room when my child is interviewed?

The SafeSport Code allows for a Claimant and Respondent to have an Advisor and/or Support Person. The Advisor can be an advocate, attorney, etc. A Support Person may be an advocate, friend, parent, etc. The Advisor and/or Support Person may not be a party or witness involved in the investigation. The Advisor and/or Support Person may not be an employee, board member, or legal counsel for the USOPC, an NGB, an LA, or the Center. (See the Code at Section VIII.P for additional information).

Any party in which your child has disclosed the alleged misconduct would be considered a witness and as such would be requested to be interviewed separately from the child. This person may not serve as an Advisor and/or Support Person. An Advisor and/or Support Person may provide support and advice to the child at any meeting or proceeding; however, they may not speak on behalf of the child.

While the Code allows for an Advisor and/or Support Person, it is integral to the investigation that the interviewer talk with your child alone. It may initially be difficult for your child to talk about their experience(s) in front of you and/or they may be unwilling to provide important details because they do not want you to hear them. Additionally, if your child discloses misconduct, it might be upsetting to you which may influence your child's responses or participation in the interview.

What should my child know about the interview?

The most important thing a child should know is to tell the truth and that you support them. This is your child's opportunity to share their experiences in their own words.

Knowing what to expect can help place your child at ease. It is helpful to inform your child someone wishes to talk to them about what they experienced. It is important to reassure your

child and give him or her permission to talk freely; however, it is equally important not to rehearse with your child or tell your child what to say.

What if my child starts to ask me questions about what they have to say?

Tell them you really do not know what will be asked, but it is very important for them to be honest. Assure your child the interviewer's job is to work with children talking about difficult things. Tell them you want them to answer all the questions the best way they can and to tell the truth.

When should I tell my child this interview will be taking place?

Give your child enough notice so they do not feel it is a surprise to them but also do not give them too long a time period to worry about what they may have to do. Usually, a day or two is enough time for them to feel comfortable.

Will the interview be recorded?

Yes. The interview will be recorded whether it is held virtually or in person.

Will anyone else be notified of what my child discloses during their interview?

If the interviewer learns of information or reasonably suspects that your child has suffered an incident of child abuse, including sexual abuse, they are required to make a report to law enforcement and child protective services.

Who will have access to my child's interview?

Should an investigation result in the issuance of an Opportunity to Review and Respond, a copy of the transcript will be included in the report which will be provided to participating Claimant(s) and Respondent(s). A copy of the video will not be provided as part of the investigation, however, may be requested if the matter goes to Arbitration.

The NGB, LAO, or USOPC will not receive a copy of the transcript or video.

If law enforcement makes a request for case-related records, the Center may release the records to include the interview video and transcript.

What happens after my child is interviewed?

Next steps specific to this investigation can be discussed with the assigned investigator, however traditionally, the assigned investigator will conduct interviews with any identified Claimants and/or witnesses, review evidence submitted and provide Respondent with an opportunity to be interviewed.

Prior to Respondent being interviewed, the Center is required to provide them with fair notice regarding the misconduct alleged. This is done with the issuance of a Notice of Allegations which may, or may not, include Temporary Measures up to and including a Temporary Suspension. This document will include your child's initials.

Will my child have to be interviewed again?

The goal is to put the needs of your child first and to minimize the stress associated with an interview. Interviewers make every attempt to obtain all necessary information in a single session; however, some situations may require a follow up interview.

What services are available for my child?

The Center employs Process Navigators who can answer any questions you may have regarding the Center's Response & Resolution process and who can connect you to online, local, and national resources for mental health support, 24/7 hotlines/helplines, educational materials, legal representation, or other desired resources that may benefit you during your involvement with the Center. If you have questions about our process or would like more information about resources, please reach out to the Navigators at Process.Navigators@SafeSport.org or 720-531-9024. Voicemails and emails are returned by the end of the following business day.

For in-person interviews at a CAC, local resources may be available and accessible through the CAC. Please be sure to express your interest in learning more about local resources to the assigned investigator.