



Remember: You are the child's best support and advocate.

Dear Parent or Guardian,

The Prince William County Child Advocacy Center (PWC CAC) is a safe space for alleged victims of child abuse to come and share their experience. At the PWC CAC, the team working on your case will come together to meet with you and the child.

A professional forensic interviewer will conduct a child-friendly, nonleading interview. The interview will be recorded.

You will receive support services to help you through this process.

Appointment Information

Time: _____

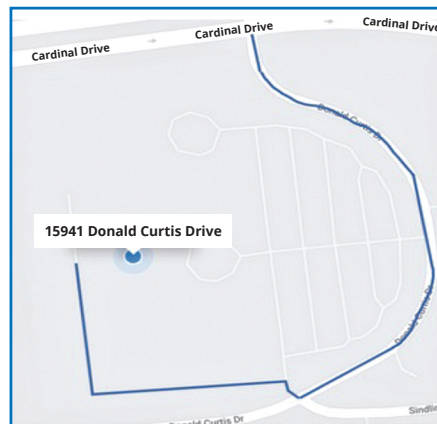
Date: _____

Directions and Arrival Information

Dr. A. J. Ferlazzo Building
15941 Donald Curtis Drive
Woodbridge, VA 22191
703-792-6549

The PWC CAC has a dedicated entrance in the Dr. A. J. Ferlazzo Building. **DO NOT** enter via the main entrance.

Drive around the building and come to the end of the parking lot. There will be dedicated parking on your left. Park in a spot marked "DSS CAC." On your right, you will see an entrance with a ramp. Come up the ramp and ring the doorbell.



pwcva.gov/cac



A Guide for Parents and Guardians



How long will the appointment take?

You should plan to be at the PWC CAC for **at least** two hours.

What should I tell the child about the appointment?

Please tell the child that they will be meeting with someone whose job it is to talk with children about their experiences.

You can let the child know that it's okay to talk about anything, and that it's important to tell the truth.

Do not tell the child what to say.

You can tell the child that they are safe.

You can tell the child that they will not get in trouble for sharing their story.

What should I bring to the PWC CAC?

The child may want to bring a comfort item. We encourage that, but we ask that you do not bring pets. The PWC CAC provides snacks and drinks.

Can I talk with the child about what happened?

If the child wants to speak with you about what happened on their own, it is okay to listen. However, please do not ask them what happened. The team will provide you with more information after the appointment.

When should I tell the child about the appointment?

The day before is enough time for a child to know about the appointment

Who can come to PWC CAC?

If you need to bring other children with you, please try to bring someone who can provide childcare for them, so you are able to meet with the team. Alleged offenders and convicted offenders are not allowed at the PWC CAC.

Can I stay with the child during the interview?

No. It is important for the forensic interviewer to talk with the child alone. Children may feel more nervous and/or ashamed if they believe a parent or caregiver is watching or listening.

What will happen while the child is being interviewed?

The family advocate will meet with you while the child is in the forensic interview. The advocate will be there to orient you to the PWC CAC and the process. They will listen to your concerns, provide support and offer referrals to resources.

What will happen after the forensic interview?

Members of the team will meet with you after the child's interview to answer questions and to discuss the next steps in the process.

Should I ask the child about their forensic interview?

You can ask how they feel, but don't ask them for any details. You can remind the child that they are safe and not in trouble for sharing their story.

The single most important factor affecting the child's recovery is the level of support from the caregiver.

