



Wayne County Prosecutor Kym L. Worthy Child Abuse Unit – Frequently Asked Questions

(313) 224-8082 or (313) 224-5857

www.waynecounty.com/prosecutor/childabuse.htm

CHILD ABUSE - FREQUENTLEY ASKED QUESTIONS

What do I do if I learn my child has been sexually or physically abused?

Report it to the police in the city where it happened. If it happened in Detroit, report it in the district where the abuse happened.

My child just told me that he/she was sexually abused. Should I take my child to a doctor or hospital for a medical exam?

If the abuse happened within the last 72 hours, take the child to a hospital ER immediately for an examination. If the abuse is more than 72 hours old, your child does need a medical check-up but not at an emergency room. Have him/her checked for HIV, sexually transmitted diseases, or other injuries at Children's Hospital and St. John Hospital who have doctors who specialize in child sexual assault.

What will happen after I make a police report?

An investigator will contact you to set up an interview with you and your child. Until then, do not question your child about the abuse, but be available to listen if your child wants to talk.

Who will interview my child?

If your child is under age 13 and he/she was sexually assaulted, he/she will be interviewed at Kids—TALK, a professional child-interviewing program. If your child is older than 12, or was a victim of physical abuse, a police officer will interview the child and then an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney may interview your child. In either case, your child will be treated kindly and with respect. If the case goes to court, you and your child will meet an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and a Child Advocate who are specially trained to take children to court.

My child and I need counseling. Where can I go?

The Wayne County Prosecutor's Office Child Advocates are available to give you referrals for counseling in your area. Call (313) 224-8082 or (313) 224-5857 and ask to speak to a Child Advocate.

What if I don't want to prosecute the perpetrator?

While your feelings will be taken into consideration, the decision to prosecute is the responsibility of the Prosecutor's Office.

What should I do if I've reported the abuse to the police, but have not heard from them?

If the crime happened in Detroit and it is a sex crime case, call the Sex Crimes Unit at 313-596-1950. If it is a physical abuse case, call the Child Abuse Unit at 313-877-7810. If the crime did not happen in Detroit, call the police department where the crime happened and ask for the detective bureau.

Will my child have to testify in court?

Children testify in many of the cases. If a child needs to testify, a specially trained prosecutor and Child Advocate support and go to court with your child.

Who can I call if I have other concerns?

Call the Prosecutor's Office Child Abuse Unit and ask to speak to a Child Advocate. Again, the numbers to call are 313-224-8082 or 313-224-5857.