

MAY I WATCH MY CHILD'S INTERVIEW?

- No, only the child and the interviewer are allowed in the room to ensure the interview is objective and court defensible. Members of the investigative team are on-site to watch the forensic interview from an observation room.
- A family advocate will meet with you during your child's interview to answer questions and discuss family needs.

WHAT SHOULD I BRING TO THE INTERVIEW?

- It is not necessary to bring anything to the interview. There is a child-friendly playroom with snacks and drinks provided.
- No personal belongings such as toys or cell phones are allowed in the interview room; however, children are provided markers, paper, and Play-Doh while the interview is in progress.
- The average interview takes about an hour but varies depending on the child's age, developmental level, and the nature of the alleged abuse. Additional interview sessions may be necessary.

HOW LONG WILL THE APPOINTMENT TAKE?

The average visit to Abbott House takes approximately two hours for one child but varies on a case by case basis.

HOW DO I FIND MARY ABBOTT CHILDREN'S HOUSE?

Abbott House is located at 231 E. Symmes St. in Norman (on the corner of Crawford and Symmes). It is a light blue, two-story Victorian house.

From I-35:

Go east on Main St. for approximately 2.5 miles, south on Crawford, and west on Symmes.

From Hwy 9:

Go north on Hwy 77, northwest on Classen Ave, west on Alameda, north on Crawford, and west on Symmes.

Parking:

You are welcome to park in the driveway in front of the house, as well as the parking lot on the west side. A family advocate will meet you at the front door.

231 E. Symmes St.
Norman, OK 73069
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HOW TO PREPARE FOR A VISIT




**Mary
Abbott**
Children's House



United Way
of Norman



**National
Children's
Alliance®**

The Force Behind
Children's Advocacy Cen

WHAT IS MARY ABBOTT CHILDREN'S HOUSE?



Mary Abbott Children's House is a safe place for children to share their experiences regarding sexual abuse, physical abuse, and neglect, as well as being a witness to a crime or in a drug endangered situation.

Established in 1996, Mary Abbott Children's House is a Children's Advocacy Center accredited by the National Children's Alliance.

WHAT SERVICES DO WE PROVIDE?

FORENSIC INTERVIEWS

At the request of law enforcement or Child Protective Services, a neutral, court-defensible interview is conducted in a child-friendly environment.

MEDICAL ASSESSMENTS

Medical assessments are provided to every child and range in scope depending on the nature of the abuse allegation. The nurse conducts wellness exams, mental health screenings, and developmental screenings to provide children and families an overall health assessment.

FAMILY ADVOCACY

Advocates work with children and non-offending caregivers before, during, and after their time at Abbott House. Advocates answer questions about the forensic interview, medical assessment, and anything else related to the investigation process. Additionally, advocates provide referrals for after-care services and will follow up with the families throughout the investigative process.



SHOULD I PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION PRIOR TO THE INTERVIEW?

Please notify an investigator on the case if your child:

- Has special needs regarding physical, mental, or emotional development.
- Has special needs regarding speech or language abilities.
- Is currently taking medication.

OUR MISSION: preventing abuse, advocating for children, and fostering hope and healing.

HOW SHOULD I PREPARE MY CHILD FOR A VISIT TO ABBOTT HOUSE?



- Explain that Mary Abbott Children's House is a safe place where children go to talk about their experience(s).
- Explain to your child that he or she will have a check-up by a nurse who will examine him or her from head to toe.
- A family advocate from Mary Abbott Children's House will contact you before your appointment to confirm the date and time and to answer any questions you may have.

SHOULD I TALK TO MY CHILD ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED?

- If your child brings up the subject, listen without questioning them further.
- Comfort and reassure your child. Do your best to remain calm and emotionally collected in front of your child.
- Do not ask your child for details or specific information. Our forensic interviewers are trained at gathering details in a way that limits further trauma.