What should I do?

Call (716) 886-5437 to schedule your appointment. We are located at 556 Franklin Street (between North and Allen Streets), Buffalo, NY 14202.

Please be on time. You will need to meet with Child Advocacy Center staff prior to the exam. (Late arrival may require scheduling another appointment.)

Please be prepared to be at our office for at least 60 minutes for the exam, its preparation and possible follow-up. The Child Advocacy Center has a private waiting area where you and your child will be comfortable.

Please be sure to ask the medical or Child Advocacy Center staff any questions you may have. It may help you to write down questions before you come to your appointment.

Staff will ask you about your child's primary physician. We recommend keeping him or her informed. Staff will ask you to sign a release to send a report of the exam to your child's doctor. Parent/guardians will meet with a care coordinator while at the appointment.

After the exam:

Please keep all follow-up appointments. If you have any questions about them, please call us.

Contact the staff if you have any questions or concerns, particularly about the exam, your child or other services.
Your child has been referred to the Child Advocacy Center of Erie County (CAC) for a medical evaluation for possible child abuse or maltreatment.

We want the exam to be helpful and healing for your child.

Our medical team conducts medical evaluations regarding child abuse allegations in all of Erie County and occasionally as consultants for outside counties and communities.

What is the exam for?
A medical evaluation, conducted by specially trained personnel, is recommended whenever it is possible a child has been abused.

Who will conduct the exam?
The medical staff at the Child Advocacy Center is part of Women & Children’s Hospital of Buffalo. The doctors, nurse practitioner and nurse are specially trained and experienced in evaluating children for abuse.

What will the exam include?
Your child will receive a “head-to-toe” visual exam. The examiner may also use a colposcope. The colposcope provides light and magnification to assist the provider to better examine your child. The colposcope does not touch your child.

Who pays for the exam?
The services are provided regardless of ability to pay.

New York State Crime Victims Board Assistance may be available to help with expenses. Staff can provide information and assist with applications if necessary. If needed, the Child Advocacy Center Staff will also assist you with insurance.

Will the exam be traumatic for my child?
Our staff is experienced in working with children, including very young children, even under difficult circumstances.

We want the exam to be therapeutic for your child. Staff will tell you and your child about the exam so you will know what to expect.

The exam is not painful and will not be forced on your child. In most instances, the child’s parent or guardian will be in the exam room. It can be very helpful to children to assure them they are physically well and to answer any questions or concerns they may have.

What should I tell my child?
- It is recommended that you tell your child that he or she will see a doctor for a check-up.
- Do not discuss that the exam is related to the possible abuse.
- Your child will take his or her cues from you. If you seem nervous, your child is more likely to be nervous.

If you have any questions, please call the Child Advocacy Center at (716) 886-5437 and speak with the medical staff.

The most important reason for the exam is to make sure that your child is physically well. It is important to remember that a normal exam does not mean that abuse did not occur.