

■ CHILD ABUSE IS A COMMUNITY PROBLEM

Only the combined wisdom, knowledge and support of child serving agencies and private citizens will result in the most effective response possible, protecting children and ending the devastating cycle of child abuse.

Your Case Information

Your social worker:

Name: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Your detective:

Name: _____

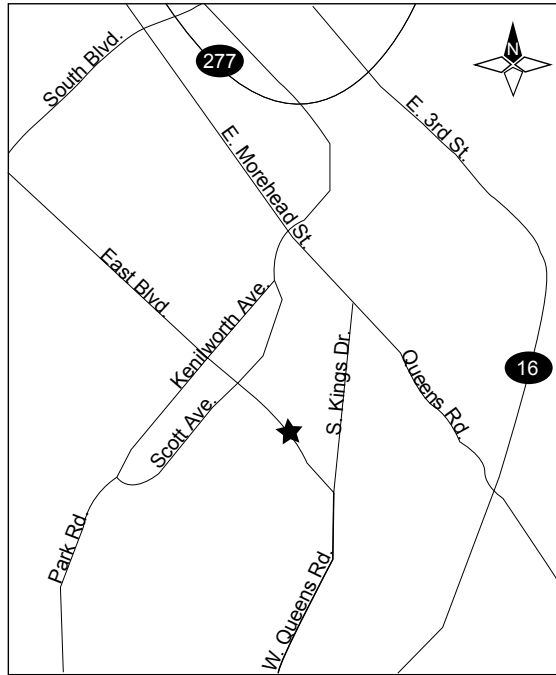
Telephone Number: _____

Your Pat's Place Family Advocate:

Name: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Your appointment date and time is:



www.patsplacecac.org

Phone: 704-335-2760 Fax: 704-335-2768

1819 East Boulevard | Charlotte, NC 28203



pat's place

child advocacy center

where healing begins



■ OUR MISSION

To provide a physical environment where a child's well-being is our first priority, reducing trauma and promoting healing from sexual abuse.

We work collaboratively with community partners to create improved processes and increase community awareness about child sexual abuse through ongoing educational efforts.

■ OUR PARTNERS

Levine Children's Hospital -
Pediatric Resource Center

Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department

Mecklenburg County Department of
Social Services

Mecklenburg County District
Attorney's Office

United Family Services

The Family Center

Behavioral Health Center

Alexander Youth Network

■ WHAT HAPPENS AT PAT'S PLACE CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER?

Pat's Place is a child-friendly center located in Charlotte. Children of all ages come to Pat's Place to speak with specially trained social workers about possible abuse. The Child Advocacy Center process involves a team of professionals from multiple agencies including law enforcement and child protective services. When you and your child arrive, you will be greeted by one of our family advocates who will guide you through the interview and medical check-up process.

■ WHAT DO I TELL MY CHILD ABOUT THE CAC INTERVIEW?

You might tell your child, "You and I are going to go to Pat's Place. It is a special place where kids go to talk. The person you will be talking to talks to kids everyday. They want to help make sure you are safe and healthy. It is ok for you to talk to them. You are not in any trouble."

■ WHO WILL TALK WITH MY CHILD?

Your child will talk to a social worker who is a child interview specialist. They have extensive training and experience in child development and talking with children. The interview is child-centered and sensitive, where information is gathered at your child's pace. The interview is fact finding only. It is not a counseling or psychological evaluation. In order to avoid intimidating children through multiple interviews by many professionals, investigative professionals observe the interview through a closed circuit television monitor in a separate room, all at one time.

■ CAN I WATCH THE INTERVIEW?

No, only those professionals who are directly involved in the investigation are allowed to observe the interview. This is done to reduce the possible stress that can be placed on the child and to provide a neutral setting for the child and investigation. After the interview, our family advocates, along with the investigative professionals will answer your questions and share with you what will happen next.

■ WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE MEDICAL CHECK-UP?

Your child will receive a check-up from one of our pediatricians or healthcare providers. They are also specially trained in working with children. This check-up is similar to your child's kindergarten physical. You might tell your child that "We are going to see a doctor who takes care of kids. She just needs to make sure that your body is okay." You may be in the room during the check-up.

■ SHOULD I TALK TO MY CHILD ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED?

No. If your child brings up the subject and wants to talk about it, listen without questioning. Be sure to reassure your child that they will be alright and you are taking care of them. If your child does tell you something, contact your law enforcement detective, social worker or Pat's Place family advocate.

■ FAMILY ADVOCACY SERVICES

After the interview and medical check-up, we are here to assist parents through the legal and healing process. Our family advocates provide phone support, information and referral services, case management, court support and other assistance as needed.