

## **PRE-INTERVIEW TOUR**

The pre-interview tour is conducted by the CPS case worker, Family/Victim Advocate or other appropriate person immediately prior to the interview.

Participants in the tour are the caregiver(s)/parent(s), child to be interviewed, and the person conducting the tour. It is perfectly fine to include other children in the family if they do not want to be left behind.

Tour includes:

- Room where interview will be conducted
- Cameras are pointed out and materials available to the child
- Room where caregiver will be meeting with the Family Advocate
- Bathroom and water location
- Could also include viewing the observation room

Purpose of the Pre-Interview Tour

- Familiarize the child and family with the environment
- Contribute to the child's comfort (and allay caregiver's concerns) about the room where the child will be interviewed
- Let the child have a "picture" of where they are going when they separate from the caregiver
- Insure that all parties know where each other will be during their time at the CAC
- Introduce recording of interview to child in parent's presence. Provide appropriate explanation of why we record ("be sure that we remember everything that was said and not leave anything out or get anything mixed up")
- Introduce information that others will observe the interview to help the CFIS remember to ask all of the questions. This paves the way for the break that will happen at some point during the interview.
- Minimize the amount of introduction and explanation that the CFIS has to do in the beginning of the interview. (This information will be acknowledged / reviewed; but eliminates excessive talking by the CFIS at the beginning of the interview.

Recommendations:

- The tour should be conducted in a friendly, but informative manner.
- The tour information/explanation does not include any discussion of what the child is at the CAC to be interviewed about.
- Child and caregiver should be asked if they have questions. Any questions should be addressed respectfully, but appropriately.
- We need to be careful not to over explain or "contaminate" the FI in anyway by discussing the allegation.
- We also don't want to raise the child's anxiety by providing too much explanation or reassurance.