

Dear Parent or Guardian,

At Foothills Child Advocacy Center, the professionals working on your child’s case come together to meet with you.

We know this is a very difficult time for your family. You will receive support and services to help you through the process.

A trained child forensic interviewer will interview your child. The interviewer will record the interview so that your child does not have to keep talking about the situation over and over with many professionals.

You are not alone during this process. We are here to help you.

Sincerely,
Foothills Staff

APPOINTMENT INFORMATION

DATE & TIME:

CHILD(REN) TO BRING:

CONTACT INFORMATION

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES/PHONE:

DETECTIVE/PHONE:

VICTIM/WITNESS ADVOCATE/PHONE:

Please call the Foothills Family Advocate if you have been told that your child may need a medical exam or if you have any questions:

Hannah Hoffman/434-971-7233, ext. 1

LOCATIONS

Please go to the location marked below for your appointment.

- Buckingham Department of Social Services**
13360 W James Anderson Hwy, Buckingham, VA
- Madison Commonwealth’s Attorneys Office**
15 Court Square, Madison, VA
- Fluvanna Department of Social Services**
8880 James Madson Hwy #13, Fork Union, VA
- Nelson Counseling Center**
71 Tanbark Plaza, Lovingston, VA
- Greene Counseling Center**
9963 Spotswood Trail, Stanardsville, VA
- Foothills Child Advocacy Center**
1106 E. High, Charlottesville, VA (parking off of 11th street, down alley)



FOOTHILLS CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER



A GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

**1106 E. High St. Suite 100
Charlottesville, VA 22902
(Parking off 11th Street)**

**Phone: 434-971-7233, Ext. 1
Fax: 434-971-7236
www.foothillscac.org**

FULLY ACCREDITED BY

NATIONAL CHILDREN’S ALLIANCE®



This project was supported by the Virginia Department of Social Services using funds from the Victims of Crime Act. Revised February 2020.



From top left, clockwise: Nelson Counseling Center; Fluvanna Family Waiting Room; Buckingham Child Interview Room; Madison Family Waiting Room; Greene Counseling Center.



What is Foothills Child Advocacy Center?

- Foothills Child Advocacy Center provides child forensic interviews, support for parents and caregivers, and other services to help children and families when there is an allegation of abuse.

How much time will the appointment take?

- You should plan for at least two and a half hours for your appointment at Foothills to meet with team members.
- If a medical exam is needed, you will need to travel to a medical facility that offers exams for child victims. This exam may be scheduled on a different day.

What will happen at the appointment?

- Your child will be interviewed in a child-friendly manner, and you will receive information and support.
- You will meet with team members such as a detective and the Foothills forensic interviewer before and after your child's interview.
- In some cases, the team may recommend that your child have a medical exam by specially trained medical staff.

Have you been told that your child may need a medical exam? Please call our Family Advocate as soon as possible at 434-971-7233, ext. 1.

Do you have questions about your appointment? Please call our Family Advocate at 434-971-7233, ext. 1.

What should I tell my child about the appointment?

- Please tell your child that they will be meeting with a person whose job is to talk with children.
- You can let your child know that "it's okay to talk about anything, and it's important to tell the truth."
- You should not tell your child what to say.
- You can tell your child that they are safe and that they will not get in trouble for telling.
- If someone else has already told you what happened, please don't ask your child about it.
- If your child has already told you what happened, please don't ask your child about it again.
- If your child has not told you, please don't ask your child. You will find out more at the appointment.

When should I tell my child about the appointment?

- Usually a day is enough time for a child to know about the appointment.

What should I bring with me to Foothills?

- Please do not bring any electronic games or videos, or anything that will make your child lose focus.

Who can come to appointment?

- If you need to bring other children with you, please try to bring someone to help watch them so that you can meet with the team.
- The person who is alleged to have hurt or abused the child should not bring the child to the appointment and cannot be in the building.

Can I stay with my child during the interview?

- It is important for the interviewer to talk with your child without you there.
- Children can feel more scared or ashamed if they know their parents are watching.
- The interview is observed and recorded so that team members do not have to keep talking to your child over and over again.

Why would my child need a medical exam?

- Your child may need a medical exam, especially when sexual abuse may have taken place.
- The medical exam will ensure that your child receives appropriate medical care if needed.
- The exam will also reassure your child that they are okay physically.
- Highly trained medical staff will explain everything to you before the exam and will help you and your child to feel comfortable.