What to expect during the interview

The interview will take place in a child-friendly environment designed to make your child feel safe

You will be asked to wait in a separate area

Location:

Villa 4, Al Khayl Street
Abu Dhabi

Contact us: Family Care Authority

Hotline: 800444

Email: ICM@adfca.gov.ae

dama al-aman

مركز الطفل
CHILD CENTER

هيئة الرعاية الأسرية
FAMILY CARE AUTHORITY

Overview of the **Investigative Interview**

Introduction to the Investigative Interview

An investigative interview of a child is a developmentally-sensitive and legally sound method of gathering factual information regarding allegations of abuse and/or exposure to violence which can be presented as corroborative evidence in the criminal justice to support accurate and fair legal decision-making



Objectives of the interview

1. **Avoid re-traumatization:** Sensitively approach children and prevent repetitive interventions to reduce the risk of further emotional distress
2. **Obtain accurate child statements**: Create a supportive environment that enables children to describe their experiences in their own words, capturing forensically relevant details vital for investigations, and providing detailed testimonies that serve as compelling evidence in court. The interviewer uses evidence-based protocols that focuses primarily on preventing memory distortion and limiting interviewer influence in order to enhance the quality and effectiveness of interviews
3. **Assess child's needs and safety:** Use investigative interview information to evaluate the child's medical, psychological, and social needs, as well as their safety



Key Stakeholder

Prosecutor: Review and advise police officers and case managers on criminal case investigations and prosecute child abuse cases in court – they are trained on interviewing children. Other people involved in the case such as the police, case manager, and psychologist could be watching the interview to request any additional information needed

Specific cases might require additional stakeholders such as child protection specialists, forensic doctors, and education specialists

Timing and Duration of the Interview

The urgency and timing of investigative interviews in child abuse cases are determined by the case manager, based on the initial assessment of the reported concern and the varying nature and severity of each case – it typically takes place within 24 hours after intake for urgent cases, and within 2 weeks after intake for non-urgent cases

While these interviews usually occur before medical and psychological evaluations, they can be delayed if a child is highly distressed, has communication challenges, or struggles with understanding due to neuro-disabilities. Delaying the interview allows for emotional stabilization, communication support, and professional guidance

Investigative interviews generally take 15 to 60 minutes