

**South Staffordshire and Shropshire
Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust**

Further Information:-

Genito-urinary medicine Clinics:-

**01283 531407 (Burton)
01827 263810 (Tamworth)**

Social Worker:-

**Contact your local social services
office.**

Police officer:-

Contact your local station

***Victim Support:-*
01543 717184**

***Childline:-*
0800 1111**

***NSPCC:-*
0800 800 500**

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
MEDICAL EXAMINATION**

**An
Information Leaflet
For
Young People**

May 2009

NHS(logo)

The Police/Social Services have suggested that you should be medically examined because you may have been abused or neglected. In most cases this examination will be carried out by a senior children's doctor (paediatrician) who has been specially trained for this work.

You and whoever you choose to accompany you, which may be a family member or friend, will be invited into the consulting room after the Police/Social Worker has told the doctors what the concerns are, so that you do not have to repeat your story.

You will be asked about any serious illnesses you may have had and whether you are in good health at present. The doctors will usually ask you about any illnesses or operations you may have had in your childhood, immunisations, allergies, behaviour difficulties and progress at school. Questions often asked are about any problems with sleeping, eating, bladder, bowels or periods.

Your written consent to the examination will be obtained as well as that of your parent or carer, after you have asked any questions. You are free to ask the examination to stop at any time you wish. Only you, the person you wish to be with you and the doctors are present during the

examination. The doctor may also request a chaperone to be present.

To begin with you will be weighed and measured and then examined from top to toe. You may not need to be undressed completely for this. Any injuries will be noted, measured and drawn on a body chart. A Police photographer may photograph these injuries later.

If you are being examined for suspected sexual abuse a police surgeon will assist the paediatrician. The doctors will generally look at the outside of the genitals but occasionally a swab may be taken for special tests. Most young people cope with this very well. The doctors will look down an instrument called a colposcope, which is a magnifying instrument, and with your consent, will use this to take photographs or a video recording of the examination. The advantage of this is, that photographic/ video recording of the examination could be shown to another medical expert if there is any question about what was seen and you would not need to be examined again.

The findings will be discussed with Police and Social Services and if appropriate, will be explained to you and your parents/carers.

The doctors need to write a report, which is sent to the Police and Social Services and may be produced as evidence in a court.

Photographs or video recordings would only be used to show another medical expert.

The medical examination is mainly to collect evidence and not necessarily to offer treatment. However, during the examination if you are found to have any health needs, the doctor will either give advice about where help can be obtained or make the necessary arrangements.

Your General Practitioner /School Nurse will also be informed that a medical examination has taken place to make it easier for you if you would like any follow up care.

After reading this leaflet, please do not hesitate to ask the doctors who will be examining you about anything you do not understand or want to know.