

**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  
Parents/Carers**

NHS (logo)

May 2009

The Police/Social Services have suggested that your child should be medically examined because they 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 your child will be invited in to the consulting room after the Police / social worker have told the doctors what the concerns are so that your child does not have to repeat the story.

You will be asked about any serious illnesses your child has had and how they are now. The doctor will usually ask about their birth, early development, immunisations, allergies, behaviour and progress at school. Questions are often asked about any problems with sleeping, eating, bladder or bowels functions. Your child will also be asked if he or she wants to talk to the doctor on their own.

Your written consent to the examination will be obtained after you have asked any questions. Your child may sign their consent too if they are thought mature enough.

The examination can stop at any your child wishes and further discussions will

take place with you about your child's needs and best interests. Usually only you and the doctor are present during the examination. The doctor may request a chaperone also to be present.

To begin with your child is weighed and measured and then examined from top to toe although your child can usually keep the under wear on for this. Any injuries will be noted, measured and drawn on a body chart. A Police photographer may photograph these injuries later.

If your child is 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 forensic tests. Most children 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 your child would not need to be examined again.

The findings of the examination will be discussed with the police/social worker and if appropriate, explained to you and your child.

Following the examination, the doctors need to write a report, which is sent to the Police / 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 designed to collect evidence and not necessarily to offer treatment. However, during the examination if any health need is identified, the doctor will either give advice about where help can be obtained or make the necessary arrangements.

Your General Practitioner /Health Visitor 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 your child about anything you do not understand or want to know.**