

What if I do not agree to the medical examination?

- If you or your child do not give consent to the examination and if the social worker and/or police feel an examination may be in your child's best interest, they will discuss this further with you. If they feel it is necessary they may seek a court order giving them permission to interview or medically examine your child, without your consent.
- If your child is old enough or has enough understanding to give consent, they can do so – the doctor will decide if this is possible.

Further information

- A child protection investigation can be a very stressful time for you and your family. It is important that:
 - You understand what is happening.
 - You and your child's views are listened to.
 - If necessary, you are given help and advised on the best way you and your child can be supported during this time.
- Hospital Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 0118 322 8338 or email PALS@royalberkshire.nhs.uk

For more information about the Trust visit www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Useful contacts

Social Care Teams and Emergency Duty Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 0118 937 3641 Reading• 9am-5pm Mon-Fri• 01344 786 543 Reading Out of hours• 01635 503190 West Berkshire• 0118 908 8002 Wokingham 9am-5pm Mon-Fri• 01344 786543 Wokingham Out of hours• 01344 351582 Bracknell 9am-5pm Mon-Fri• 01344 786543 Bracknell Out of hours• 0345 050 7666 Oxford Children's Social 9am-5pm Mon-Fri
Thames Valley Police	0845 8505 505
Childline	0800 1111 https://www.childline.org.uk/
NSPCC	0808 800 5000 (24 hour helpline) https://www.nspcc.org.uk/
Family Lives	0808 800 2222 (24 hour helpline) https://www.familylives.org.uk/

Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.

Child Protection Governance Group
July 2022. Next review due: July 2024

Child protection: why a medical examination has been requested and what happens next

Information for patients,
parents and carers

This leaflet explains what happens when the local social care team is involved in a child protection medical examination.

Why is this examination necessary?

- A medical examination has been requested as there have been concerns raised about your child.
- The investigation will be led by either a social worker and/or a police officer.
- Your child will be examined by a senior children's doctor (paediatrician) who has had special training for this work.
- Other children in the family may need to be physically examined too.
- You or your child's permission – known as consent – will need to be given before the examination can take place. Your child can only consent if they are old enough and/or can understand what they are consenting to.

What happens then?

- A nurse will take your child's details and then take weight and height measurements.
- The doctor will come and speak to you and will ask you about:
 - Any illness your child has had
 - Their birth
 - Their development
 - Their immunisations (jabs)
 - Any allergies
 - Any regular medication
 - Their behaviour and progress at school
 - Their day to day health
 - The family history

The doctor may also speak to the social worker or police officer involved in the case.

- You will also have the opportunity to talk about any health concerns you may have and to ask questions about the process.
- At the examination, normally only you, your child, the doctor and a nurse chaperone will be present. If anyone else needs to be involved, this will be discussed with you.

What happens during the examination?

- Your child will have a full general examination (top to toe). If your child has any obvious injuries, these will be documented, measured and drawn in the child's record. Photographs may be taken of any injuries or wounds.
- If your child becomes very upset, a further discussion can then take place as to what is best to do next.
- More specific investigations/ tests may need to be done. If required, this will be discussed with you at the time.

What happens after the examination?

- The doctor who examined your child will explain his/her findings to you and your child (depending on their age and understanding) as well as to the social worker and/or police officer involved.
- The doctor will then write a report will be sent to your GP and social services / police. This report and the hospital records may be used as evidence in court if necessary.