

The Stephanie V. Blank Center for Safe and Healthy Children – Who We Are



The Stephanie V. Blank Center for Safe and Healthy Children is a group of doctors, nurse practitioners, social workers, forensic interviewers, behavioral health clinicians, prevention team members and professional support staff at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. They are experts in child abuse.

When is the Center called?

The Center is called anytime there is a concern about child abuse. It is common for them to be called when:

- There is not a clear reason for a child's injury.
- A very young child has a serious or unusual injury.
- There was a delay in getting medical care.
- A child may have been sexually abused.

What does the Center do?

The Center does not assume anything about how your child was injured. The Center staff will:

- Talk with you to find out what you know about your child's injury.
- Check your child's medical records and test results.
- Examine your child.
- Advise for more tests if needed.

What tests could my child have?

The Center doctor will talk with you about specific tests for your child. Some tests may include those listed in the table below.

Test	Why it is done
Skeletal survey (X-rays of all bones in the body)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To check for other bone injuries and if present, make sure they get treatment• To help the doctor find out if there is an ongoing problem with your child's bones
CT scan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To check for brain injury• To help the doctor decide whether to order other tests, involve the brain surgeons or start medicines
MRI scan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sometimes done to see a more detailed picture of the brain if there are areas on the CT scan that are not normal

In case of an urgent concern or emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away.

Who we are, continued

Test	Why it is done
MRI scan (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To help the doctor get a different look at the brain and may also help to find out why your child's brain had bleeding• To help the doctor see how the injury affects your child's brain
Eye exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To help the doctor tell if your child's eyes have been injured• The eye doctor will dilate your child's eyes with eye drops first. This makes it easier to see inside the eye.
Blood tests	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To check for other conditions your child may have• To find and treat other problems before your child goes home from the hospital

Who else is involved?

- The Center doctor or nurse practitioner will most often talk with you and other family members along with a social worker.
- Like the Center doctor, a Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) worker may be called when abuse is a concern.
- The DFCS worker works with Center staff to decrease the number of times you and your family are asked the same type of questions.

How can I help my child?

One of the best ways to help your child is to sit down with the Center staff and go over the facts in detail. This allows the staff to hear about your child's injury from you, rather than having to read about what was told to someone else.

What happens next?

Our staff will help make sure your child is going to be safe at home before they go home from the hospital.

- Your child may need a follow-up visit at the Center. This visit may include another exam and X-rays.
- The doctor or nurse practitioner will be in contact with DFCS to talk about the medical findings for your child.

Please ask the Center staff or DFCS workers any questions you have about your child or the exam.

This teaching sheet contains general information only. Talk with your child's doctor or a member of your child's healthcare team about specific care of your child.

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