

CHILD VICTIM INVESTIGATIONS: NAVIGATING THE UNTHINKABLE

The following is a more detailed explanation on what to expect, in general, during the course of an investigation in which a child is victimized.

Detective Responds

An on-duty detective from Henrico Police may respond, regardless of day or time. **However, this may not be the same detective who will ultimately be assigned to the child's case.**

Detective Assigned

A detective from the Henrico Police Division's Special Victims Unit will be assigned to the investigation. He or she will contact you soon after the initial report is taken, typically during daytime hours. The detective assigned to the investigation may, or may not, be the same detective with whom you initially met.

Forensic Interview

A forensic interview of the child may be conducted at a Child Advocacy Center. A forensic interview is a structured conversation with a child intended to elicit details about possible events the child may have experienced or witnessed. **The interview is conducted by a specially-trained forensic interviewer in a child-friendly setting; not at a police facility.**

The interview is observed by the detective. Questions are carefully worded so answers are in the child's own words. No child is coached or led to a response. The interview is recorded and used for investigation purposes; it will not be released to the public.

If it is determined that a forensic interview of the child is necessary to the investigation, a pamphlet with greater detail about the interview process will be provided.

Physical Examination

Depending on the circumstances, the child may be examined by specially-trained nurses at either St. Mary's Hospital (5801 Bremono Road), or MCV-VCU Hospital (1213 E. Clay Street). The purpose of the examination is to recover and document any potential evidence corroborating the child's disclosure.

Child Protective Services

Henrico Child Protective Services (CPS) may be involved in the investigation if the potential abuser is a care provider for the child.

A care provider is any adult (18 years of age or older), designated to be in a position of authority, care, or responsibility for the child at the time the act(s) occurred. Examples of a care provider include a parent, guardian, sibling, family member, babysitter, coach, teacher, boyfriend, girlfriend, etc.

Witness Interviews

In the initial stages of the investigation, the primary focus will be on the wellbeing of the child and the collection of evidence, statements, etc.

This sometimes confuses and frustrates loved ones, as it may appear police are not investigating all possible leads. However, rest assured, any and all potential witnesses pertinent to the investigation will be contacted during the course of the investigation.

Findings Presented

Once the investigation is complete, the findings are presented by the detective to the Henrico County Commonwealth's Attorney for Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court. Upon review, the Commonwealth's Attorney will make a determination to either continue the investigation, place criminal charges, or decline prosecution.



Nearly
700,000
children
are abused
in the US
annually.

WHAT TO EXPECT

When police receive a report of child abuse, below are steps in the investigative process—from the initial response and throughout the investigation—here is what you can expect:

– DETECTIVE RESPONDS –

An on-duty detective may respond, however, it may not be the detective who will be assigned to the child's case.

– DETECTIVE ASSIGNED –

After the initial response, a detective from the Special Victims Unit will be formally assigned to the case.

– FORENSICS INTERVIEW –

The victim may be interviewed at the Child Advocacy Center by specially-trained staff.

– PHYSICAL EXAMINATION –

Depending on circumstances, the child may be examined by specially-trained nurses at an area hospital.

– CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES –

Child Protective Services (CPS) may become involved in the investigation.

– WITNESS INTERVIEWS –

Possible witnesses will be interviewed.

– FINDINGS PRESENTED –

Findings from the investigation will be presented for review to Henrico County's Commonwealth's Attorney Office.



Henrico County Police Division
Internationally Accredited



Henrico County Police Division
P. O. Box 90775
Henrico, VA 23273-0775

Emergency: 911
Non-emergency: (804) 501-5000
henrico.us/police

Humberto I. Cardounel, Jr.
Chief of Police

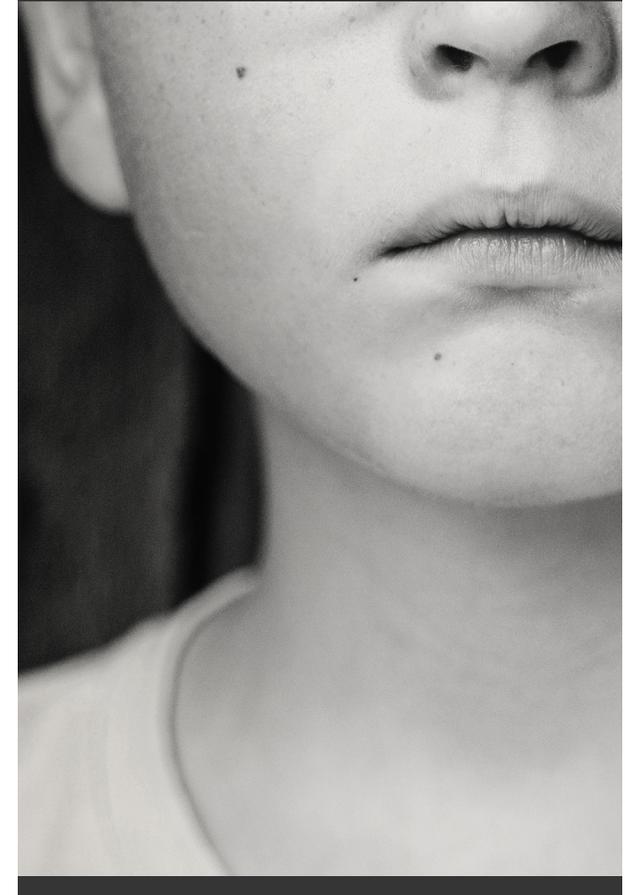


*Proud of our progress;
Excited about our future.*

2019-PIO/LGB

CHILD VICTIM INVESTIGATIONS

NAVIGATING THE UNTHINKABLE



**REPORT ALL SUSPICIOUS
ACTIVITY TO POLICE**

Emergency: 911
Non-Emergency: 804-501-5000



ICR#: _____