



What is a MDI?

MDI's (Multidisciplinary Interviews) are child-focused, trauma informed interviews, conducted in a safe place where children of all ages talk with a trained Child Forensic Interviewer about child abuse allegations. MDI's have been around since 1985 to help reduce the stress involved with abuse allegations by limiting the amount of interviews a child experiences.

How do I talk with my child about their upcoming MDI?

It's important to share with the child they will talk with a trained Child Interviewer who needs to know about what was reported, emphasizing the child is not in trouble. You can share with the child that this person talks with kids all the time about difficult topics. It is important to reassure the child and give them permission to talk freely; however it is equally important not to rehearse with the child or tell the child what to say.

Be the One with Courage

It takes real courage for a child to disclose that they're being abused. Be equally strong. If you suspect that a child is being neglected or sexually or physically abused, do the right thing. Make a report.

ONLY 1 IN 10 SEXUALLY ABUSED CHILDREN DISCLOSE THEIR ABUSE

1 IN 5 GIRLS & 1 IN 20 BOYS IS A VICTIM OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

ALMOST 5 CHILDREN DIE EVERY DAY FROM CHILD ABUSE IN AMERICA

REPORT CHILD ABUSE:

Lassen County Child and Family Services
(530) 251-8277

Have a question? Contact us.

Krystle Hollandsworth
MDIT Coordinator
2950 Riverside Drive, Suite 102
Susanville, CA 96130
(530) 251-8280

ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S VISIT TO THE CENTER



The MCAC is housed within the Lassen County District Attorney's Office located at:

2950 Riverside Drive, Suite 102
Susanville, CA 96130
(530) 251-8280

<http://www.co.lassen.ca.us>

The Benefits of a Child Advocacy Center

Research has shown that multiple interviews by untrained interviewers can create additional problems for a child and can adversely affect outcomes. Our Child Advocacy Center is designed to protect children and families while streamlining the legal process. MDI team members represent law enforcement, child and family services, mental health, medical providers, prosecution, and victim advocacy.



What is the MDI process?

You and your child will be given an explanation of the interview process and the opportunity to meet the trained Child Forensic Interviewer. Your child will then be led by the interviewer to the child-friendly interview room where they will be interviewed one on one. Other MDI team members will observe your child's interview via a secured live feed from an observation room. The interviewer has received specialized training in child interview techniques and is trained to recognize the sensitive needs of your child.

While your child is being interviewed, you will have the opportunity to meet with an advocate from Lassen County Victim Witness Program or Lassen Family Services to talk about any concerns you may have about your child, yourself, or any other non-offending member of your family. The advocate will have information about the Victim Compensation Program, which may cover reimbursement for counseling expenses to an eligible victim and family during the process. In addition, they will make referrals to available programs and resources available throughout the community.

Can I watch the interview?

No. Most parents would like to be present during the interview or observe the interview, but in order to maintain neutrality of the investigation, only MDI team members can observe the interview.

How long does the interview last?

Since each case is different, each interview lasts for a different amount of time. However, interviews typically last anywhere from 15 minutes to 1 hour per victim.

What will happen after the interview?

After the interview, you may be able to talk with a member of the MDI team who observed the interview. An Advocate will be available to offer support to the child and family during this process. The child may still need to go to court to testify, although it is a goal of MDI to reduce the number of interviews a child has to give in order to prevent retraumatization.

We know that this is likely to be a difficult, stressful, and confusing time for you and your child. We hope this information helps you understand what to expect before, during, and after your child's visit to the Mikailia Child Advocacy Center (MCAC).



MCAC Interview Room

Can I talk with my child about the abuse or their recent MDI interview?

The short answer is no, not unless the child brings up the subject and wants to talk about it. As a parent, it's a natural inclination to want to talk about what happened; however, it can be harmful to the child to talk about the abuse at this phase. Asking a child questions may be viewed as tampering with evidence and can significantly hamper the investigation and court case.

What happens if my child wants to talk about what happened?

If your child offers to share details, you can listen and remain calm. Offer reassurance that what happened is not their fault and thank them for telling you. Continue to offer love and support!