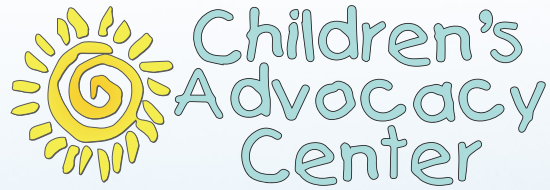


NOTES:



Administrative Office of the Courts
13th Judicial Circuit

**For More Information or
To Make a Referral:**

Contact the Children's Advocacy Center by calling:
(813) 272-KIDS/5437

To report Abuse please dial:
1-800-962-2873 or 1-800-96-ABUSE

Visit our website at:
[www.fljud13.org/CourtPrograms/
ChildrensJusticeCenter/
ChildrensAdvocacyCenter.aspx](http://www.fljud13.org/CourtPrograms/ChildrensJusticeCenter/ChildrensAdvocacyCenter.aspx)

Our Office is Located at:

Mary Lee's House
2806 N. Armenia Avenue, Suite 500
Tampa, Florida 33607



**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS**

**Depositions at the
Children's
Advocacy Center**



What is a Deposition?

A **deposition** is evidence given under oath and recorded for use in court at a later date. It is a part of the work that lawyers do before a trial. During a deposition, lawyers can take turns asking adults, and sometimes children, about what they know to help them prepare for trial.



A Frequent Question Regarding Depositions is:

Can my mom or dad be in the room with me?

Unfortunately, they cannot. But, if the lawyers agree, they can watch from another room. Only those people who are directly involved in the deposition are allowed to be in the room. This is done for two reasons. The first is to create a neutral setting to reduce the possible stress that can be placed on a child. The second is to avoid any influence that the child's statements may have on your own knowledge of the alleged crime as you may or may not have been a witness to the alleged crime.



What Children Should Know About a Deposition

The room where the deposition takes place has several chairs and a table. You will be sitting at the end of the table and the lawyers sit on either side. The room has two cameras in it and you are being recorded the whole time you are in the room. This is not meant to make you uncomfortable. What you have to say is very important so the lawyers have the deposition recorded so that they can remember everything you had to say.

At the beginning of the deposition, someone will ask you to promise to tell the truth. The lawyers will then take turns asking you questions. If you ever get confused or don't understand something that they ask you, it is okay to tell them so. If you do not know the answer to a question or do not remember what happened, it is okay to tell them that, too.

What is the Children's Advocacy Center?

A Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) provides prevention, intervention and treatment services to physically and sexually abused children and their families within a child-focused team approach.

The mission of the Children's Advocacy Center is to reduce trauma to children during the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases. The CAC provides the facility and support that brings the professionals to the child. This model promotes better communication between the professionals and parents/caregivers. Better communication allows more accurate, immediate assessment of a child's safety and better information to parents/caregivers about the criminal justice process. All of this means that children are less traumatized and can begin the healing process.

