

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **“We just finished the interview, what happens now?”**

Officers continue to gather information and will typically call caregivers with updates on the case. The timeframe can vary depending on several factors. Meanwhile, if you have requested a victim support worker, they can assist you with supports and services depending on what your needs are. Each case is unique and times can vary depending on the circumstances.

## **“What happens if my child begins to tell me more information on the way home or after the interview?”**

After your time at Sophie's Place, your child may start to disclose more information. If this happens, do not ask direct questions or prompt further discussion. Simply take the time to listen to what your child has to say. Try to document what prompted the disclosure (i.e., what was happening beforehand), and write down any questions that you may have asked them. This information is also valuable to officers if another interview has to occur.

## **“Should I record my child if they disclose more information to me?”**

Caregivers may feel the need to record their child if more information related to their case is disclosed in hopes they can provide further details to officers. Do not audio or video record any information that your child discloses to you. This can further complicate the investigation and could also potentially break trust with your child.

## **“A family member is the perpetrator. How do I explain to my child why this happened and why they can't see this family member anymore?”**

When discussing these boundaries with your child or family, it's important to be truthful with your child, explaining that a family member has done something wrong, and it's not the child's fault. Clearly communicate the decision that they cannot see the family member anymore, emphasizing that it's for their safety and well-being. If your child is struggling to cope, consider seeking additional assistance and support.

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### **“Will my child have to go to court and testify?”**

Your child may be required to testify in court. There are many processes that will happen before it will be determined whether or not your child will testify. If your child is required to testify, you and your child will be supported through the process, and there may be testimonial aides in place to assist your child in testifying more comfortably.

### **“Am I able to receive counselling supports for myself or my child?”**

Sophie's Place has an onsite clinical counsellor which provides brief support to promote stabilization, coping skills, and focus on the parent's role in the child's healing process. If you are connected to a victim service worker or social worker, they can provide a referral to the clinician, as well as provide more information on additional community supports, or application processes for the crime victims assistance program (CVAP).

### **“I don't want this to happen to my child again. How can I make sure they are protected in the future?”**

There are several steps that you can take to help protect your child from assault in the future, for example, maintaining open and honest communication with your child, teaching personal boundaries, body autonomy, and healthy relationships. If you are wanting to learn more on this topic, speak to your victim service worker or social worker for further resources.

### **“Should I share what happened to my child with other close contacts?”**

Caregivers may want to update close family members, doctors, or teachers about the trauma that has occurred with their child, but there is no obligation to do so. Depending on the circumstances and the families approach, caregivers may want to let school staff (principal, teachers, assistants, etc.) know what has happened and if there is any important information or plans that would be helpful for staff to know.