

What happens if you refuse to let your child be medically examined?

- Usually a child's parent is asked for consent to the examination. If consent is not given and if the social workers and/or police feel an examination would be in your child's best interests, they may need to discuss this further with you.
- Sometimes, young people may be able to give their own consent and the doctor will decide if this is possible (Gillick competent).

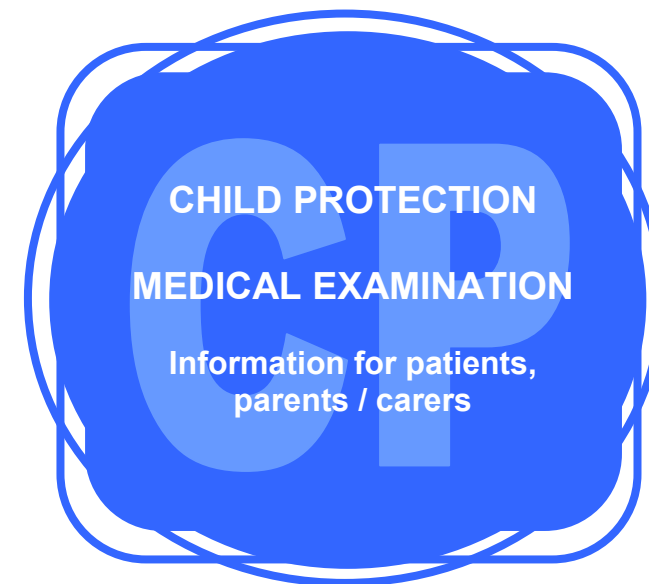
Remember

A child protection investigation can be a stressful time for you and your family. It is important that:

- You understand what is happening.
- You and your child's views are listened to.
- If necessary, you are given help and advised on the best way you and your child can be supported during this time.

Useful telephone numbers

Social Care Teams and Emergency Duty Teams	Stoke-on-Trent's Children's Advice and Duty Service (CHAD): 01782 235100 followed by Option 2, Stoke-on-Trent EDT Out of Hours: 01782 234 234 Staffordshire Children's Advice and Support Service: 0300 111 8007 followed by Option 1, Option 4 & Option 1. Staffordshire out of hours: 0845 604 2886
Staffordshire Police	0300 123 44 55 (non-emergency and Child Protection) 999 (emergencies only)
Childline	0800 1111(freephone)
NSPCC	0808 800 5000 (freephone) Or email via help@nspcc.org.uk



Why is this examination necessary?

- A child protection medical examination has been requested as there have been concerns about your child.
- The examination will be carried out by a senior children's doctor (paediatrician) who has been specially trained for this work.
- Your written permission (consent) and/or your child's (depending upon your child's age and understanding) will be needed for the examination.
- Other children in the family may need to be examined as well.

What happens when you arrive?

- Your child will be weighed and have their height measured.
- The doctor will then come and see you. They will want to ask the social worker or police officer for some background information.

Who else will be present at the examination?

- You, your child and the doctor. If others need to be present, this will be discussed with you

What questions will you be asked?

- The doctor wants to know about the overall health of your child. You will be asked about:
 - any illnesses your child has had
 - their birth
 - development
 - immunisations
 - allergies
 - any medication
 - behaviour and progress at school
 - their day-to-day health
 - family history
- You will also be able to talk about any health concerns you may have about your child.

What happens during the examination?

- Your child will have a full general (top-to-toe) examination. If your child has any obvious injuries these will be noted, measured and drawn in the child's records.
- Your child will also be told that the examination can be stopped at any time if they/you wish. A further discussion can then take place as to what is best to do next.

What happens next?

- More specific investigations may need to be done. These will be discussed with you.
- The doctor will explain the findings of the examination to you and your child (depending on your child's age and understanding) as well as to any social worker and/or police officer involved.
- The doctor will write a report which is then sent to your GP, and any social worker and/or police officer involved. This report and the hospital records written at the time may be produced as evidence in court if necessary.
- We might need to give your child treatment or arrange for them to be followed up by a children's doctor at a later date. If this is needed we will talk to you about it at the medical.