

# Medical Exams

## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR YOUR CHILD TO HAVE ONE?

We want to assure you and your child that their body is healthy. Even if the abuse occurred months or years before the disclosure, children often have unvoiced worries and concerns about the effects of the abuse on their bodies. The exam can be one more step towards healing for your child (and you).

A medical exam is provided by a nurse with specialized training, experience and expertise. The exam is patient driven, meaning although you consent to the exam, it is ultimately up to your child whether they will participate or not. The exam does not hurt, but the nurse examiner will never force a patient to complete the medical forensic exam. The exam will include an overall head-to-toe checkup in addition to photo documentation. The practitioners can test for infections, but those results are not immediate. Follow-up recommendations can be made based on exam and lab findings.

We understand the sensitive nature of this experience, and we recognize that this is can be a stressful time for you and your child. If you have any questions or concerns regarding medical exams, please contact YWCA Nurse Examiner Program Manager, Stephanie, at 616-426-3725 or the CAC at 616.336.5160.

## MEDICAL REFERRALS IN KENT COUNTY:

YWCA OF WEST CENTRAL MICHIGAN  
25 SHELDON BLVD. SE, GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49503  
616.459.4681

