

What is Michael's House?

Michael's House is the Child Advocacy Center located in Greene County. Michael's House provides a single place for a comprehensive, multidisciplinary team response to occur in a comfortable, private, and child-friendly environment. It is designed, furnished, and staffed to promote healing. The multidisciplinary team includes law enforcement, child protective services, prosecution, medical, mental health, and victim advocacy.

What is a forensic interview?

A forensic interview is a neutral, fact-finding conversation conducted by a specially trained forensic interviewer. Our forensic interviewers talk to children in an objective, comfortable, and non-leading manner. The forensic interview allows for other professionals who may investigate and prosecute cases to observe the interview from another room.

Why is it best that a child be interviewed here?

We provide a safe and welcoming place for children to be heard.

We bring the team to the child by providing a single location for interviewing children, rather than having a child go from agency to agency and potentially enduring multiple interviews.

Through our team approach, we promote the protection of the child and the child's family from further abuse and trauma.

Our collaborative efforts endorse a responsive, successful investigation and prosecution of alleged offenders.

We provide trauma-informed services and referrals to programs for children and families that promote coping, healing, and overall well-being.



Because
help starts
here...



Phone

937-641-5670



Address

1016 Rainbow Court
Fairborn, OH 45324



Website

michaelshousecac.org

What Should I Expect?

Information to know before your visit
at Michael's House



How do I explain to my child what is going to happen?

It is helpful to inform your child that someone wishes to talk with him or her about what was reported. However, it is equally important not to rehearse with your child or tell your child what to say. You may reassure your child and give him or her permission to talk freely. You should let your child know that they will be in a safe place, and the adults they are visiting with will let them know exactly what is happening each step of the way. Avoid telling your child that he or she will receive something or go somewhere after the interview. Avoid describing Michael's House as a doctor's office, as this often confuses children.

Can I be present with my child or the team during the interview?

No. Due to the nature of these investigations, it is necessary to provide a neutral setting for the child. While unintentional, the presence of a caregiver may influence the child during the interview.

How long will my visit last?

All visits are different depending on the age of the child. Depending on the child's age, attention span, talkative nature of the child, and the history of the alleged abuse, interview times vary greatly. Please allow time for initial interactions, the forensic interview, and a post-interview meeting. Michael's House can provide a school excuse note upon request.

Will someone talk with me during the interview?

A Michael's House Family Service Coordinator (FSC) will be available to provide support while the interview is taking place. If any additional resources or services are needed, the FSC can facilitate this.

Should I talk to my child about what happened?

No. If your child brings up the subject and wants to talk about it, listen without questioning. Be sure to reassure your child that they are safe, and you are taking care of them. If your child does tell you additional information, please contact your law enforcement detective and/or child protective services caseworker.



What can I expect immediately following the interview?

A post-interview meeting will be held with the relevant team members, which may include the following: Michael's House Family Service Coordinator, law enforcement, child protective services, and/or victim advocacy. The investigative team members will discuss your child's interview and next steps. The information they provide may be limited due to the fact it may be an ongoing investigation. They will tell you everything necessary to keep your child safe. The Family Service Coordinator will discuss referrals to services and resources that include mental health and medical services.

What should I say to my child after the interview?

Listen. If your child wants to talk about the interview, listen. While it may be difficult, don't ask questions.

At the same time, don't be concerned if your child doesn't want to talk about the visit. Some children may be tired of talking and don't want to discuss it further.

There is no right or wrong response that your child may have after the interview. Keep things normal, don't pry, and reassure them that you're there for whatever they may need.

Thank your child for talking and acknowledge his or her courage. Assure your child of your love and support, no matter what was disclosed or determined during the visit.

Avoid leading your child that the interview will end the process. Some cases continue into the legal system, requiring additional information. You will be informed and supported should the case progress in this direction.