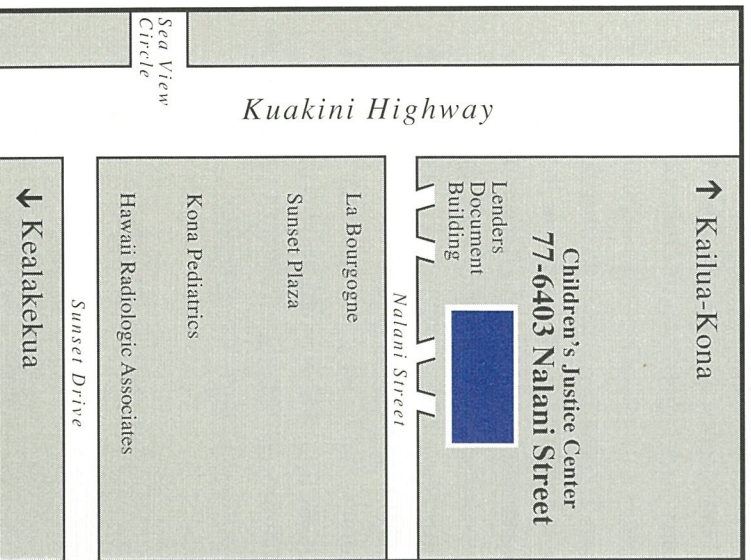


## How can a child and family get help?

If there is a suspicion of child abuse, anyone can call the Department of Human Services, the Hawai'i County Police Department or the Sexual Assault Hotline.

The Children's Justice Center of West Hawai'i will provide information and referral services to anyone who needs assistance by calling 329-5261

## Where is the Children's Justice Center of West Hawai'i located?



## Who to call?

Although at times it may seem that there are many different people involved in a case, these professionals all have separate roles and responsibilities to help the child and family through the system. Please use this as a quick reference to the persons working with you.

AGENCY

TELEPHONE

Department of Human Services

Hawai'i County Police Department

Sexual Assault Counselor

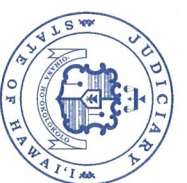
Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner

Child's Therapist

Guardian Ad Litem

Prosecuting Attorney

Victim Assistance Counselor



## Children's Justice Center of West Hawai'i



77-6403 Nalani Street  
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740  
PH. 808 329-5261

## ***What is the Children's Justice Center?***

The Children's Justice Center is a Judiciary program which provides a warm, homelike setting designed for children where they can be interviewed about reports of child abuse, particularly sexual abuse and witnesses to crime. Cooperating in this program are the Department of Human Services' Child Welfare Services, the Hawai'i County Police Department, Hawai'i County Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, Victim Witness program, Department of the Attorney General, crisis and medical services, treatment providers, and community volunteers. They work together at the Center and coordinate their efforts to help abused children and their families.

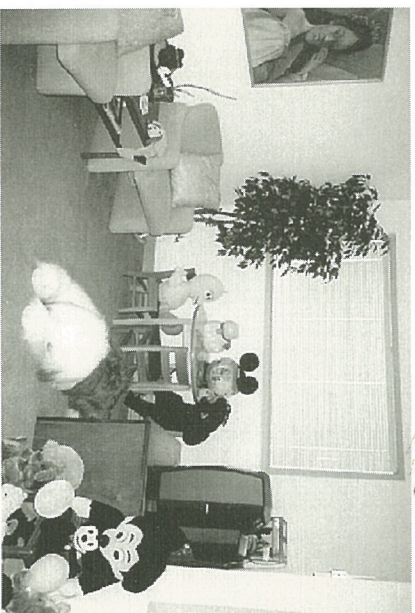
## ***Why is a Child brought to the Children's Justice Center?***

After a report of child abuse is made to the proper authorities, a child is brought to the Center by a protective family member, friend, or agency staff to be interviewed. Follow-up meetings with other professionals are also held in the familiar surroundings of the Center to provide a bridge for the child to new experiences.

## ***How are these interviews conducted?***

Our goal is to help the child feel safe, comfortable, and supported. The two interview rooms are designed for different aged children and have a viewing area to minimize the number of people who are in with the child. A video-tape is made of the interview to reduce the need to re-interview the child.

The Hawai'i County Police Department investigates all reported cases of child abuse. Since the Department of Human Services investigates these cases if they occur in the family, trained staff from both agencies work as a team at the Center to conduct the interview. A crisis counselor is also available to provide support.



## ***What happens next?***

If the abuse is sexual and has occurred within 72 hours, the child may be taken as soon as possible for a forensic medical examination. In all cases, a physical examination should be conducted to determine the child's medical and emotional needs.

With family related abuse, the Department of Human Services is concerned about the well being and safety of the child, ensuring that the child is in a safe environment. They will assist the child and family in obtaining therapy from trained professionals in the community, as therapy is important to begin the healing and helping process.

Sexual assault counselors provide support services and/or counseling to children and their families when the abuse occurred outside the family.

## ***Will the case go to court?***

The Department of Human Services may bring a case into Family Court if it appears to be in the best interest of the child. The Hawai'i County Police Department determines whether a case will be sent to the Prosecutor's Office for possible criminal court action. If a case is accepted for prosecution, a Deputy Prosecuting attorney and a Victim Assistance counselor will be assigned to the case. The Center is available to them for meetings with the child. As with the professionals from other agencies, the prosecuting attorney and counselor are specially trained to help the child and family go through the Court process in as supportive a manner as possible.