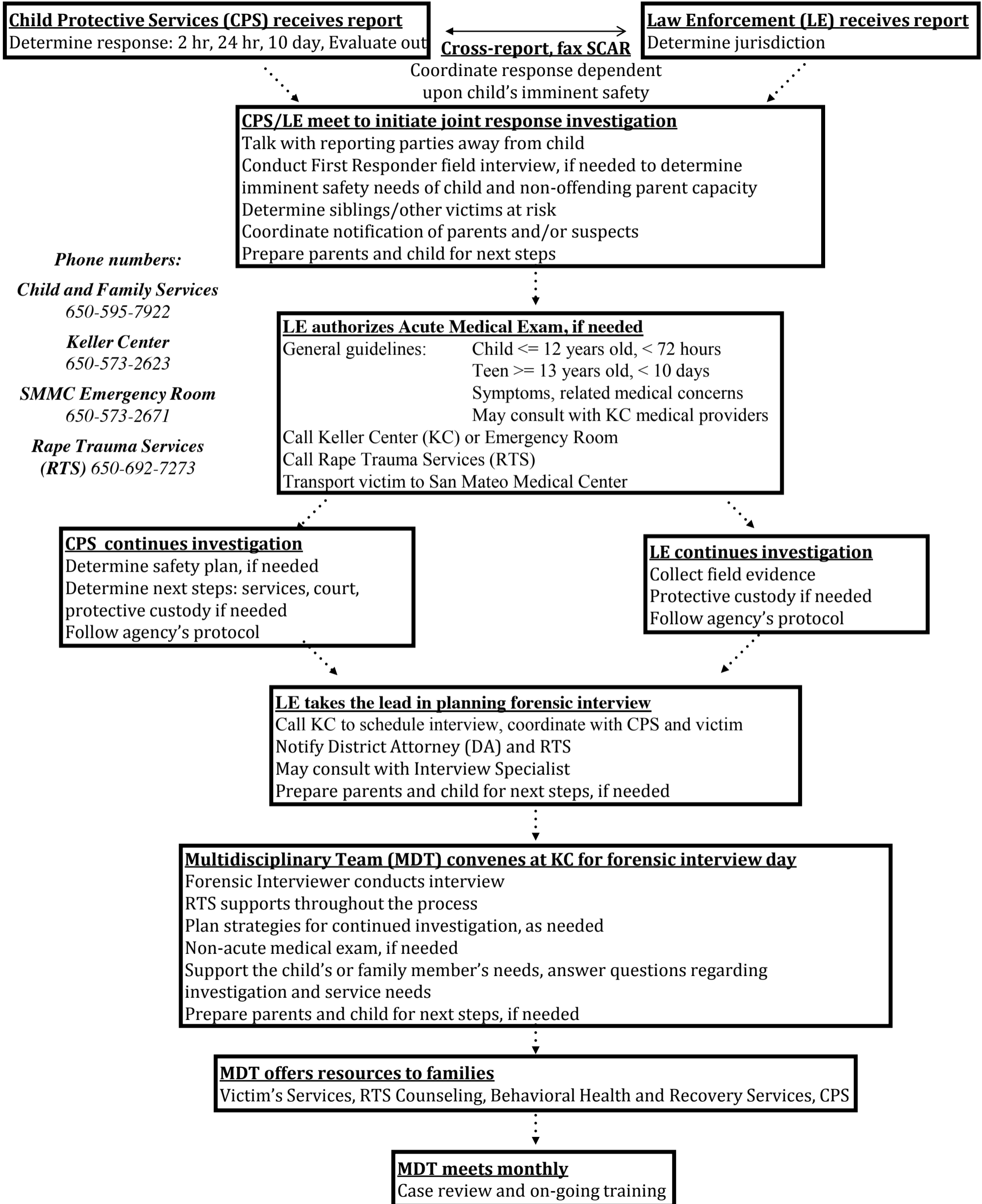


QUICK GUIDE for Child Sexual Abuse (including CSEC)

Refer to the San Mateo County Child Sexual Abuse Response Protocol for full details.



Phone numbers:

Child and Family Services

650-595-7922

Keller Center

650-573-2623

SMMC Emergency Room

650-573-2671

Rape Trauma Services

(RTS) 650-692-7273

SAN MATEO COUNTY
FIRST RESPONDER FIELD INTERVIEW OUTLINE FOR SUSPECTED CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE
*****UPDATED September 2017*****

BEFORE PROCEEDING: DETERMINE WHETHER THERE IS A NEED FOR A FIELD INTERVIEW!!!

- If the initial field report includes basic facts about alleged sex abuse (Who, What, Where) and there is no concern about parental protective capacity or immediate safety, DO NOT conduct a field interview and defer interviewing of the child to the Keller Center interview.
- If the initial field report does *not* include basic facts about alleged sex abuse (Who, What, Where) or if child needs to be interviewed to determine parental protective capacity or immediate risk, utilize the outline below.
- If it is necessary to conduct a field interview, a joint response with law enforcement and CPS is optimal. The interview should be recorded by law enforcement.

1. RAPPORT BUILDING

- My name is... My job is... (to help kids/families, to help kids be safe, etc.)
- I want to get to know you better.
- Talk about everyday things and topics that interest the child.
- Tell me about things you like to do.
 - You said you like X (e.g. soccer). Tell me more about X.

2. TRANSITION TO PRESENTING CONCERNS.

(Ask questions in the presented order. If a child makes a disclosure, you do not need ask additional questions; move on to #3 below.)

- Tell me why I came to talk to you today... It's really important that you tell me why I came to talk to you today.
- I help kids with problems; I heard you might have had a problem with someone...
- Is someone worried about you? What is X worried about?
- I heard that someone might have bothered you. Tell me about that.
- I heard you saw/talked to (reference person to whom child disclosed) about something; tell me what you talked about.

If child does not make a statement using these questions, end the interview and defer further questioning of the child to the Keller Center interview.

3. IF THE CHILD MAKES A GENERAL STATEMENT ABOUT POSSIBLE SEXUAL ABUSE IN RESPONSE TO ONE OF THE QUESTIONS IN #2 ABOVE, BUT YOU STILL REQUIRE SOME OF THE BASIC FACTS (WHO, WHAT, WHERE), AS NEEDED, ASK:

- You said X (repeat child's exact words e.g. "Richard touched my private.")
 - What happened?
 - Where were you?
 - When was the last time you saw X? (While time frame is needed to determine the need for acute exam, note that this question may be challenging for younger children. Obtain this info from an adult whenever possible.)

Once you have basic facts that suggest that sexual abuse may have occurred, STOP the fact-finding portion of the interview; defer further fact finding questions to the Keller Center interview and proceed to #4 to assess immediate safety and parental protective capacity.

Do not pursue questions about private parts, touching, numbers of times abuse occurred, good touch/bad touch, inside/outside, though you should document any spontaneous statements the child makes about these topics. Do not suggest the name of a suspect unless the child has already provided a name.

4. ASSESS PARENTAL PROTECTIVE CAPACITY/IMMEDIATE SAFETY

- Who knows about X? Do mom/dad/guardian know? How does mom/dad/guardian know?
- What did mom/dad/guardian do? What did mom/dad/guardian say?

5. CONCLUDING THE INTERVIEW

- a. Thank child for talking with you.
- b. Answer questions/concerns.
- c. Explain next steps to parent and child, including age appropriate description of the Keller Center. (See 2016 Child Sexual Abuse Protocol Appendix for full more information and a sample script.)