



Indiana Department of Child Services www.in.gov

Mission: The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) protects children from abuse and neglect, and works to ensure their financial support.

Vision: Children thrive in safe, caring, supportive families and communities.

Values:

We believe:

- Every child has the right to be free from abuse and neglect
- Every child has the right to appropriate care and a permanent home
- The best place for children to grow up is with their own families
- Children and older youth have the right to permanent and lifelong connections
- Parents have the primary responsibility for the care and safety of their children
- In personal accountability for outcomes, including one's own growth and development
- Every person has value, worth and dignity

DCS: The Department of Child Services was established in January 2005 by an executive order of Governor Mitch Daniels. The Department was charged with providing more direct attention and oversight of two critical areas: protection of children and child support enforcement. DCS protects children who are victims of abuse or neglect and strengthens families through services that focus on family support and preservation. The Department also administers child support, child protection, adoption and foster care throughout the state of Indiana.

Indiana's Child Protective Services: CPS protects Indiana's children from further abuse or neglect and prevents, remedies, or assists in solving problems that may result in abuse, neglect, exploitation, or delinquency of children. CPS operates a **toll-free hotline (1-800-800-5556)** for people to call and report suspected cases of child abuse or neglect. CPS receives and initiates investigations of child maltreatment on a 24-hour basis.

Families receive services based on the severity of the abuse or neglect, an assessment of the child's and the family's needs, and an assessment of the relative safety and risk to the child in the home.

The **Family Preservation Program** carries out the agency's goals to prevent unnecessary separation from their families by identifying family problems and assisting families in resolving them. DCS also seeks to return children who have been removed from their own homes to their families through the provision of services to the child and family.

For more information on what constitutes child maltreatment, visit the Child Welfare Information Gateway at www.childwelfare.gov

The DCS Central Office is located in the Indiana Government Center South at 302 West Washington Street, Room E306
www.in.gov/dcs

Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline: 800-800-5556

Child Support: Every child has the right to the financial support of both parents, whether or not the parents are married or live together in the home with the child. The **Indiana Child Support Bureau** enforces this right. The Child Support Program is required to do a number of functions to assist in getting child support dollars to families. These functions include: locating non-custodial parents; establishing paternity; establishing child support and medical support orders and enforcing payment of child support.

Child Support Customer Service Kidline: (317) 233-5437 and (800) 840-8757

Kidline customer service hours: Mon--Fri 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Closed on State Holidays.

Automated phone service is available 24 hours, 7 days/week.

Assistance is available in 170 different languages upon request.

Adoption: In order to be considered for placement of a child as a potential adoptive family, you will need to complete the preparation requirements including training, background checks, a home study, and more. For more information, or to initiate the preparation process, please call **1-888-25-ADOPT**. To meet Indiana's waiting children, please visit: <http://www.adoptuskids.org/states/in/browse.aspx>

Post-Adoptive Services: Post-adoption services can be very helpful to many adoptive families. To initiate a referral for services, families must contact the Special Needs Adoption Program (SNAP) Specialist in the region where they live. The SNAP Specialist will complete a referral to the service provider so that the family may receive an assessment and create a service delivery plan. For SNAP Specialist contact information, please visit: <http://www.in.gov/dcs/2747.htm> or call **1-888-25-ADOPT**.

Foster Care: Foster Care provides a safe, nurturing, stable, and temporary environment for children who can no longer remain in their own homes due to the risk of abuse or neglect. This care may be provided by unlicensed or licensed relatives, as well as licensed non-relative foster parents. The foster parent and relative caregiver's role includes: Participating in Child and Family Team Meetings or Case Plan Conferences; Supporting the Case Plan goals; Participating in court hearings when notified; Providing for the child's basic needs (e.g., food, clothing, and shelter); Maintaining confidentiality; Supporting the approved Visitation Plan and Supporting the child's positive identification with his or her family of origin.

Foster Care Helpline: 888-631-9510

