

CPS OVERVIEW

The Children's Protective Services (CPS) program is committed to keeping children and families together safely, strengthening families, and preventing further harm. In collaboration with children, families, communities, and other key partners, CPS is dedicated to upholding a system rooted in prevention, family preservation, and equity.

By law, the department is responsible for investigating allegations of child abuse and child neglect. This includes harm or threatened harm to a child's health or welfare that occurs through nonaccidental physical or mental injury, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, or maltreatment by a parent, a legal guardian, any other person responsible for a child's health or welfare, a teacher, a teacher's aide, a member of clergy, or an individual 18 years of age or older who is involved with a youth program and neglect by a parent, legal guardian, or any other person responsible for the child's health or welfare.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) embraces the following tenets in the delivery of CPS services:

- Most parents have the strength and ability to care for their children and keep them safe when adequately supported by family or other social supports.
- CPS strives to end all forms of racism and assure racial and ethnic equity and justice.
- Families who need help from CPS are diverse in family structure, culture, race, ethnicity, religion, economic status, beliefs, values, and lifestyles.
- The presence of poverty does not mean a child is unsafe or the parent lacks the ability to care for their child(ren).
- CPS services should be accessible, strength-based, culturally relevant, and delivered with compassion and respect.
- CPS proactively helps families by building protective capacities before maltreatment occurs.
- Except in the most extreme circumstances, involuntary separation of children from their families is not an acceptable solution for families in need.

- When investigation of the referral finds there is a preponderance of evidence of abuse or neglect by a person responsible for the child's health or welfare, the department must assess the needs and strengths of the family and refer the family to services commensurate with the risk level.