

Child Protective Services – Introduction

2101.1 Purpose of Child Protective Services

The goal of Child Protective Services (CPS) is to ensure the protection and safety of children who are victims of abuse and neglect.

Both state and federal law mandate providing the protective services of the state, in situations of child maltreatment, to prevent further abuse, to protect and enhance the welfare of children and to preserve the family when possible. Both federal and state laws recognize that reunification efforts are not required in all circumstances or when it is contrary to the welfare of the child. State law, legislative intent and policy consistently put a child's safety first (See 2102.1 and 2102.20). Effective child protection broadens the safety net for children to include relatives, neighbors, day care, schools and health care providers in a community response to child maltreatment.

At major decision points throughout the CPS process (from receipt of a report until case closure), consideration of a family's need for referral to early intervention and other preventive services is made.