

# Child Protective Services: Intake

## 2103.22 CPS Across County Lines

### Requirement

Response to a report occurring in a county, not the county of the child's residence, is the responsibility of both counties (the county where the alleged maltreatment occurred and the county of residence).

Always, if a report is of a situation that requires immediate action, both counties share responsibility for the assessment (investigation) and the protection and safety of the child.

### Procedures/Practice Issues

The county of residence (home county) is responsible for the assessment (investigation). The county where the maltreatment occurred or where the child is currently located, is responsible for assisting with local contacts, as requested by the home county. The county where alleged maltreatment occurred or where a child is currently located may be asked to interview the child and collaterals or parties to an assessment (investigation) living in that county, and may **also** be asked to collect evidence available at that location.

Fulfilling the requirement regarding services across county lines may vary in areas served by multi-county resources (e.g., hospitals). Discuss with the Regional Director's office any significant deviation from the requirement and/or the breakdown of cooperation between counties. County protocols should include procedures for providing services across county lines.

Contact an out-of-state county to request assistance in completing an assessment (investigation) for a child currently at that location. Most often this will be a request to interview a child or witnesses to the reported maltreatment living at the out-of-state location.

### Immediate Action Needed

An **immediate action situation** is when a child is at such risk that court-ordered protection is needed while that child is outside the county of residence. The county where the child is found is responsible for obtaining a Shelter Care Order/ Authorization to Place and for taking the child into care. That county then immediately notifies DFCS in the county of the child's residence that the child is in protective custody.

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The county of residence immediately seeks a Shelter Care Order/Authorization to Place from the Juvenile Court of the child's county of residence. This order allows the county of residence to take legal jurisdiction of the child prior to a 72-hour hearing in the county where the child is in emergency care. The county of residence, when it receives the Shelter Care Order/Authorization to Place, arranges for placement and transportation of the child back to that county.

**Safety of a child is the main consideration.** Quickly determine between counties which one has responsibility for each activity required for:

- The child's immediate protection;
- Conducting each aspect of the assessment (investigation);
- Transporting the child; and
- Other activities required by the case, including any needed ongoing case management.

Follow this process for situations that involve a child across a state line. Contact the out-of-state county to request assistance completing an assessment (investigation).

**NOTE:** Policy regarding services across county lines may vary in areas served by multi-county resources (e.g., hospitals). Discuss significant changes in the policy and/or breakdown of cooperation between counties with the Regional Director's office.