



South Dakota  
Child  
Protection  
Services



South Dakota  
Department of  
**Social Services**

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# Protective Services

State law requires doctors, mental health professionals, social workers, counselors, child care providers, hospital and school personnel, law enforcement officers, parole or court services officers, religious healing practitioners, domestic abuse shelter employees or volunteers, coroners or any safety-sensitive position as defined in subdivision SDCL 23-3-64 (2) to report child abuse. Failure by a mandatory reporter to report child abuse or neglect is a misdemeanor.

Anyone who has reasonable cause to suspect a person under age 18 has been abused or neglected may make a report. The report is made to the Department of Social Services, law enforcement or the state's attorney. CPS and law enforcement agencies are required by law to investigate reports of child abuse or neglect. Any person who knows or suspects that a child has been physically or emotionally injured, neglected or sexually abused should report it immediately.

Protective services are provided for children and their parents in situations where children are unsafe because of abuse and neglect. It includes intake and screening of referrals of child abuse and neglect involving families who have a caretaking responsibility for children. Referrals are assigned for an Initial Family Assessment. An Initial Family Assessment is a neutral approach to gathering information in response

## Introduction

The purpose of the South Dakota Department of Social Services' Division of Child Protection Services (CPS) is to work together to bring safety, permanency and well-being to families to build a better tomorrow.

CPS protects children who are unsafe, while making every effort to keep families intact. The division also offers referrals for counseling for families and training for adoptive or foster parents.

Our staff believes respect, integrity, teamwork and accountability are the core values of the division. Our commitment to these values will guide our thoughts and actions as helpers, colleagues and employees. These core values are understood, accepted and to be applied by all CPS staff.



## Support Services

Support services are also available to families when there are danger threats regarding abuse and neglect of children. Support services include training for families in parenting skills and home management. These services also provide referrals for counseling and other assistance.

The following are examples of support services Child Protection Services offers:

### **Present Danger Plans**

Present Danger Plans allow CPS to consider an alternative to children being placed into custody during the completion of the Initial Family Assessment when it is indicated the child is unsafe. An example could be the parents can voluntarily allow children to be cared for by other caretakers or the alleged maltreater could leave the home.

### **Safety Plans**

Safety Plans are used following the completion of the Initial Family Assessment when danger threats are present. A Safety Plan gives the parents and CPS additional time to make a better determination as to what services are needed to help manage the child's safety. A Safety Plan requires coordination with individuals such as other family members, treatment providers, school representatives, day care providers, etc. who can assist the parent in managing safety.

to a report of suspected child abuse or neglect. Information is gathered through interviews and observations. It also includes a determination as to the validity of the allegations in the report, a determination whether or not there are any other abuse or neglect issues, a determination as to the immediate safety and needs of the child and a determination of danger to the child through identification of specific threats to child safety.

If it is determined the child is unsafe, a CPS Family Services Specialist will develop a Protective Capacity Assessment with the parents to change the conditions in the home causing the child to be unsafe. If a child appears to be in immediate danger, a judge may order removal of the child from the situation or a law enforcement officer may take protective custody.

CPS does not have the authority to take custody of a child. If parents succeed in making improvements, court action may not be necessary. In severe cases, the state's attorney may initiate a criminal proceeding.



## Parenting Program

CPS offers the Boys Town Common Sense Parenting to help parents make their home more peaceful, enjoyable and safer for the whole family. The program is a proven step-by-step guide for raising responsible children and provides skills to assist parents to build strong, healthy families. For more information about the program and upcoming classes, please visit [dss.sd.gov/childprotection/parentingprogram.aspx](https://dss.sd.gov/childprotection/parentingprogram.aspx).

## Placement Services

If children are removed from their homes to ensure their safety, CPS must place them in a temporary or permanent home where they will be well cared for and safe.

The following placement services are available:

**Kinship placement** provides a child with 24-hour temporary care and supervision by a relative while permanent plans are developed.

**Foster care** provides a child with 24-hour temporary care and supervision in a licensed foster home while parents and Family Services Specialists partner to resolve the danger threats identified with the caregivers which make the child unsafe.

**Group care** provides 24-hour service for children with family and interpersonal conflicts. They may be unable to tolerate a family setting or they may require

ongoing counseling in a structured program using community-based resources.

**Psychiatric residential treatment** provides 24-hour services for children who have behavioral or emotional problems requiring intensive professional assistance and therapy in a highly structured, self-contained environment.

**Intensive residential treatment** provides 24-hour services for children who need more intensive and frequent services, supervision, and individualized treatment to prevent physical aggression and the likelihood of children injuring themselves or others.



# Independent Living Services

## Independent Living Program

The Independent Living Program provides assistance for youth ages 14 to 21 who have been in foster care in South Dakota. The program provides services to assist youth and young adults with the transition from foster care into independent living. For more information about the program, please visit [dss.sd.gov/childprotection/independentlivingprogram/](https://dss.sd.gov/childprotection/independentlivingprogram/).

## Education and Training Voucher Funds

The Education and Training Voucher (ETV) funds provide funding to assist South Dakota youth in foster care with continued education and training after high school or GED equivalent. The ETV funds can be received by youth who have been adopted at age 16 or older, entered kinship guardianship at age 16 or older, or were in an out-of-home placement and left foster care at age 18 or older. The ETV funds will assist young adults until they reach 26 years of age, as long as they are enrolled in a post-secondary education or training program and making satisfactory progress toward completion of the program. The funding can be available for five years. For more information about the program, please visit [dss.sd.gov/childprotection/independentlivingprogram/educationtraining.aspx](https://dss.sd.gov/childprotection/independentlivingprogram/educationtraining.aspx).



# Adoption Services

The Department of Social Services has adoption services available for children and families when children are unable to reunify with their birth parents. Children adopted through the Department primarily have a history of abuse and neglect and parental rights have been terminated. Services may include financial assistance and post adoption services.

# Subsidized Guardianship

Subsidized guardianship provides financial assistance to a legal guardian who provides permanent care for a child.

## Contact Us

To report child abuse or neglect, call **877.244.0864**. If reporting an emergency situation before 8 a.m., after 5 p.m., on the weekend or during a holiday, please contact your local law enforcement.

For more information about CPS, contact your nearest CPS office.

**Aberdeen: 605.626.3160**

3401 10th Ave SE, 57401-8000

**Counties served:** McPherson, Edmunds, Brown, Marshall

**Brookings: 605.688.4330**

1310 Main Ave S, Suite 101, 57006-3893

**Counties served:** Kingsbury, Brookings, Miner, Lake, Moody

**Chamberlain: 605.734.4500**

320 Sorensen Dr, 57325-1022

**Counties served:** Lyman, Buffalo, Brule

**Eagle Butte: 605.964.4484**

1302 N Willow, PO Box 530, 57625-0530

**Counties served:** Ziebach, Dewey

**Hot Springs: 605.745.5100**

2411 Hero Ave, 57747-0729

**Counties served:** Custer, Fall River

**Huron: 605.353.7100**

1000 18 St SW, Suite 3, 57350-3486

**Counties served:** Faulk, Spink, Hand, Beadle, Jerauld, Sanborn

**Lake Andes: 605.487.7607**

140 W Highway 5, PO Box 190, 57356

**Counties served:** Charles Mix

**Mission: 605.856.4489**

671 N Marge Ln, PO Box 818, 57555-0818

**Counties served:** Mellette, Todd, Jackson, Bennett

**Mitchell: 605.995.8000**

116 E 11th Ave, 57301-1432

**Counties served:** Aurora, Davison, Hanson, McCook, Douglas

**Mobridge: 605.845.2922**

920 6th St W, 57601-0160

**Counties served:** Perkins, Corson, Campbell, Walworth, Potter

**Pierre: 605.773.3612**

912 E Sioux Ave, 57501-3490

**Counties served:** Sully, Hyde, Hughes, Stanley, Jones, Haakon

**Rapid City: 605.394.2525**

510 N Cambell, PO Box 2440, 57709-2440

**Counties served:** Pennington

**Sioux Falls: 605.367.5444**

811 E 10th St, Dept. 3, 57103-1650

**Counties served:** Minnehaha, Lincoln

**Spearfish: 605.642.6904**

120 Industrial Drive, Suite 6, 57783

**Counties served:** Lawrence

**Sturgis: 605.347.2588**

2200 W Main St, 57785-1338

**Counties served:** Butte, Harding, Meade

**Vermillion: 605.677.6800**

114 Market St, Suite 102, 57069

**Counties served:** Turner, Clay, Union

**Watertown: 605.882.5050**

2001 9th Ave SW, Suite 300, PO Box 670, 57201-0670

**Counties served:** Roberts, Day, Clark, Codington, Hamlin, Grant, Deuel

**Winner: 605.842.0400**

648 W Second St, PO Box 31, 57580-0031

**Counties served:** Tripp, Gregory

**Yankton: 605.668.3030**

3113 Spruce St, Suite 200, 57078-5320

**Counties served:** Hutchinson, Bon  
Homme, Yankton







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605.773.3227

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