



# Child Protection Services

**DSS**   
Strong Families - South Dakota's Foundation and Our Future



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## Introduction

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

Child Protection Services protects children who are unsafe, while making every effort to keep families intact. Child Protection Services also offers referrals for counseling for families, training for adoptive or foster parents, and licensing services for child welfare agencies.



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 Child Protection Services' staff.



## Protective Services

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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 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 that 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. Child Protection Services 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 to a report of suspected child abuse or neglect. Information is gathered through interviews, observations and reviewing documents. It also includes making a determination as to the validity of the allegations in the report, determining whether or not there are any other abuse or neglect issues, making a determination as to the immediate safety and needs of the child, and determining danger to the child through identification of family/child strengths and stresses.

If it is determined the child is unsafe, a Child Protection Services' Family Services Specialist will develop a case plan with the parents to change the conditions in the home causing the child to be unsafe. Normally, a child would not be removed from the home. However, 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.



Child Protection Services 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.

**Support services** are also available to families when there are safety concerns 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.




## Placement Services

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

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 social workers try to resolve the family's problems.

**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.

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

**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 runaway behavior, rage and physical aggression, and the likelihood of children injuring themselves or others.



## Special Needs Adoption

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Special needs adoption is a legal process that unites children who have special needs with adoptive parents. Children considered for special needs adoption may be physically, mentally or emotionally handicapped. These children are primarily victims of abuse and neglect, and parental rights have been terminated. They are usually over age eight, part of a sibling group or a minority group.

## Licensing

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South Dakota law requires child welfare agencies to be licensed. These agencies include family foster homes, psychiatric residential treatment facilities, intensive residential treatment centers, group care centers for minors, independent living preparation programs, maternity homes and child placement agencies. Licensing is intended to ensure that agencies maintain minimum standards of care and do not present children with any further threat of abuse or neglect. The department trains prospective foster and adoptive parents to become placement resources for children who are either temporarily or permanently unable to live in their own homes. This training is a group process known as Parents Resource for Information, Development and Education (PRIDE). The program involves 30 hours of training and includes a home study process and home consultations.



## Contact Us

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For more information about CPS or to report child abuse or neglect, contact your nearest CPS office.

**Aberdeen: (605) 626-2388 or 1-866-858-3204**

3401 10th Ave. SE, 57401-8000

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

**Brookings: 1-866-847-7335**

1310 Main Ave. S., Suite 101, 57006-3893

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

**Chamberlain: 1-866-847-7339**

320 Sorensen Dr., 57325-1022

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

**Deadwood: 1-866-847-7334**

20 Cliff St., PO Box 607, 57732-0607

**Counties served:** Lawrence

**Eagle Butte: 1-866-442-2095**

1302 N. Willow, PO Box 530, 57625-0530

**Counties served:** Ziebach, Dewey

**Hot Springs: 1-866-847-7334**

2500 Minnekahta Ave., Bldg 1, PO Box 729, 57747-0729

**Counties served:** Custer, Fall River

**Huron: toll-free 1-866-858-3204**

110 Third St. S.W. Suite 200, 57350-2450

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

**Lake Andes: 1-866-847-7338**

3rd & Lake, PO Box 190, 57356-0190

**Counties served:** Charles Mix



**Martin: 1-866-847-7337**

404 3rd Ave., PO Box 250, 57551-0250

**Counties served:** Jackson, Bennett

**Mission: 1-866-847-7339**

671 N. Marge Lane, PO Box 818, 57555-0818

**Counties served:** Mellette, Todd

**Mitchell: 995-8000 or 1-866-847-7338**

116 E. 11th Ave., 57301-1432

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

**Mobridge: 845-2922 or 1-866-442-2095**

920 6th St. W., PO Box 160, 57601-0160

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

**Pierre: 1-866-442-2095**

912 E. Sioux, 57501-3490

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

**Pine Ridge: 867-5752**

Lakota Oyate Wakanyeja Owicakiyapi Inc,

PO Box 604 57770-0279

**Counties served:** Shannon

**Rapid City: 394-2525**

510 N. Cambell, PO Box 2440, 57709-2440

**Counties served:** Pennington

**Sioux Falls: 367-5444**

811 E. 10th St., 57103-1650

**Counties served:** Minnehaha, Northern Lincoln

**Sisseton: 1-800-568-0004**

Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe, 509 Agency Village, 57262

**Counties served:** Roberts, Marshall, Day

**Sturgis: 347-2559 or 1-866-847-7334**

2200 W. Main St., 57785-1338

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



**Vermillion: 1-866-847-7338**  
114 Market St., PO Box 516, 570069-0516  
**Counties served:** Turner, Clay, Union,  
Southern Lincoln

**Watertown: 882-5050 or 1-866-847-7339**  
2001 9th Ave SW, Suite 300, PO Box 670,  
57201-0670  
**Counties served:** Roberts, Day, Clark,  
Codington, Hamlin, Grant, Deuel

**Winner: 842-0195 or 1-866-847-7339**  
649 W. Second St., PO Box 31, 57580-0031  
**Counties served:** Tripp, Gregory

**Yankton: 668-3030 or 1-866-847-7338**  
3113 Spruce St., Suite 200, 57078-5320  
**Counties served:** Hutchinson, Bon Homme,  
Yankton



**For more information:**

**(605) 773-3227**

**[www.dss.sd.gov](http://www.dss.sd.gov)**



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