South Dakota Child Protection Services

DSS
Strong Families - South Dakota’s Foundation and Our Future
# Table of Contents

Introduction .................................................. 1
Protective Services ........................................... 2
Support Services .............................................. 4
Placement Services .......................................... 6
Special Needs Adoption ................................. 7
Subsidized Guardianship ............................... 8
Licensing ......................................................... 8
Contact Us ..................................................... 9
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, 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 CPS staff.
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 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.

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 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 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.

**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.

**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/.

**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 enter into a kinship guardianship after reaching the age of 16 or older, or who are adopted from foster care after reaching the age of 16 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](http://dss.sd.gov/childprotection/independentlivingprogram/educationtraining.aspx).

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 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.

**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**

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 impaired or disabled. These children are primarily victims of abuse and neglect, and parental rights have been terminated. They are usually over 8 years old, part of a sibling group or a minority group.
Subsidized Guardianship

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

Licensing

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 agencies maintain minimum standards of care and do not present children with any further threat of abuse or neglect.

The division 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 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.
To report child abuse or neglect, call **1.877.244.0864**. 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:** 605.626.2388  
3401 10th Ave. SE., 57401-8000  
**Counties served:** McPherson, Edmunds, Brown, Marshall

**Brookings:** 605.688.4330  
1310 Main Ave. S., Ste. 101, 57006-3893  
**Counties served:** Kingsbury, Brookings, Miner, Lake, Moody

**Chamberlain:** 605.734.4500  
320 Sorensen Dr., 57325-1022  
**Counties served:** Lyman, Buffalo, Brule

**Deadwood:** 605.578.2402  
20 Cliff St., P.O. Box 607, 57732-0607  
**Counties served:** Lawrence

**Eagle Butte:** 605.964.4484  
1302 N. Willow, P.O. Box 530, 57625-0530  
**Counties served:** Ziebach, Dewey

**Hot Springs:** 605.745.5100  
2500 Minnekahta Ave., Bldg. 1, P.O. Box 729, 57747-0729  
**Counties served:** Custer, Fall River

**Huron:** 605.353.7100  
110 Third St. SW., Ste. 200, 57350-2450  
**Counties served:** Faulk, Spink, Sanborn, Hand, Beadle, Jerauld
Lake Andes: 605.487.7607
3rd & Lake, P.O. Box 190, 57356-0190
Counties served: Charles Mix

Mission: 605.856.4489
671 N. Marge Lane, P.O. Box 818, 57555-0818
Counties served: Mellette, Todd, Jackson, Bennett

Mitchell: 605.995.8000
116 E. 11th Ave., 57301-1432
Counties served: Sanborn, 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, P.O. Box 2440, 57709-2440
Counties served: Pennington

Sioux Falls: 605.367.5444
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: 605.347.2588
2200 W. Main St., 57785-1338
Counties served: Butte, Harding, Meade
Vermillion: 605.677.6800
114 Market St., P.O. Box 516, 57006-0516
**Counties served:** Turner, Clay, Union, Southern Lincoln

Watertown: 605.882.5050
2001 9th Ave. SW., Ste. 300, P.O. Box 670, 57201-0670
**Counties served:** Roberts, Day, Clark, Codington, Hamlin, Grant, Deuel

Winner: 605.842.0400
649 W. Second St., 57580-0031
**Counties served:** Tripp, Gregory

Yankton: 605.668.3030
3113 Spruce St., Ste. 200, 57078-5320
**Counties served:** Hutchinson, Bon Homme, Yankton