

Child Protective Services

Child Protective Services (CPS) in Virginia is a continuum of specialized services designed to assist families who are unable to safely care for their children. It encompasses the *identification*, *assessment*, *investigation*, and *treatment* of abused or neglected children.



Responsibilities of Child Protective Services:

- * Receive reports of child maltreatment.
- * Respond to valid reports of child maltreatment.
- * Facilitate services to children and families.
- * Support and strengthen families.

CPS Response to Valid Reports:

Response priority determined by nature of allegations and other risk factors.

R1	Within 24 hours
R2	Within 48 hours
R3	Within 5 business days

Validity Criteria: * Age * Caretaker Status * Jurisdiction * Abuse or Neglect

Differential Response:

Assess child safety

Strengthen family

Prevent future maltreatment

Family Assessment

The family assessment is a process of gathering and evaluating information and formulating conclusions regarding family functioning and needs related to child safety and risk of future abuse or neglect.

Investigation

The investigation is a process of gathering and evaluating evidence to determine if child abuse or neglect occurred.

Provision of Services:

The goals of CPS services are to prevent further child maltreatment, assure safety of children, and maintain children in their families.

* Safety-related Services * High and Very High Risk * Voluntary Services

For more information:

[VDSS Guide to Mandated Reporting](#)



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES