

# 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 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 40 work hours

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