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.

A report of suspected maltreatment is not an accusation. It is a request for the helping process to begin.

**Responsibilities of Mandated Reporters:**

- Identify children who may be abused or neglected
- Report concerns of suspected child abuse or neglect within 24 hours.

**Civil and Criminal Immunity**

Section 63.2-1512 of the Code of Virginia protects a person, who either makes a CPS report or participates in a court hearing that results from a CPS report, from criminal and civil liability unless it is proven that the person acted with malicious intent.

**Confidentiality of Reporter:**

In some instances, despite the child protective services worker’s efforts to maintain confidentiality, a family may be able to identify the mandated reporter. In addition, if the case is brought to court, the identity of the mandated reporter may be revealed during court proceedings.

It is better to make your concerns known than to remain silent and possibly allow a child to remain unprotected.

For more information:

VDSS Guide to Mandated Reporting