

Child Protective Services for Children Program Summary

Social Services is mandated by law to protect children from abuse, neglect or exploitation. Some of the services are as follows:

Child Protective Services- provides protection to children who are alleged to be abused, neglected, dependent, or exploited by an adult caregiver. The focus is on the safety of the child and support for parents/caregiver to strengthen families and promote safe nurturing homes for children.

Reports to the Department are taken by an intake social worker and screened jointly with a social worker supervisor. Reports that meet North Carolina General Statutes for neglect, abuse, and/or dependency, are then assigned to an Investigating/Assessing social worker. Social workers investigate or assess assigned cases, evaluating the degree of damage or risk to the child, cooperate with law enforcement agencies, and initiate court action when necessary to protect children.

Treatment social workers (also known as In-Home Service workers) collaborate with families to keep children safely in their homes in situations when it has been determined at the conclusion of an investigation or assessment that the child (ren) would be at risk of serious future harm absent this intervention.

An extended duty social worker responds to emergency situations, which cannot be handled during regular office hours such as nights, weekends, and holidays.

Family Prevention Services and Parenting Education: Prevention services are available in a limited capacity and on a voluntary basis to families experiencing significant needs that, without intervention, could potentially result in a report to and involvement with Child Protective Services.

A Prevention social worker assists the family with developing specific and achievable strategies to reduce, prevent, or eliminate future unsafe, unhealthy practices. Such strategies may include providing parenting education, linking families with available community resources, providing life skills training, and more.