

◆ Learn More About CPS

CPS has produced a DVD explaining child welfare and the juvenile dependency courts from a parent's point of view. CPS also offers a free Citizens Academy twice a year. For information, call (916) 876-5462 or email slothowerl@saccounty.net

◆ How Can I Help?

Become a foster or adoptive parent.

(916) 875-5543 (875-5KID) or fhl@saccounty.net.

Become a CASA volunteer.

Sacramento Court Appointed Child Advocates act as a child's voice in juvenile dependency court. (916) 875-6460 or info@sacramentocasa.org

Be a mentor. Contact Wonder, Inc., at (916) 231-3027 or info@wonderinc.org

Make a donation to help foster

children. *Making Memories* raises money for summer camp, after-school sports, senior prom and other "little extras." (916) 875-5810 or (916) 876-5584 or makingmemories@sacramentocasa.org



CPS's 24-hour
Child Abuse Hotline:
916-875-KIDS (5437)



Department of Health and Human Services
Lynn Frank, Director

Ombudsman
Victoria Deane
(916) 875-2000

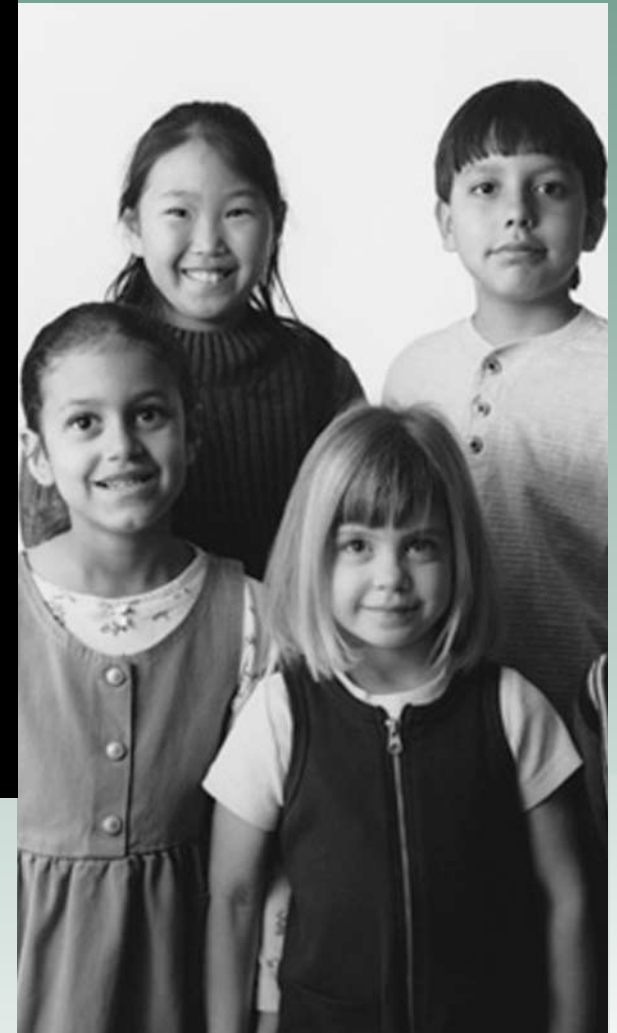
Child Protective Services Division
PO Box 269057
Sacramento, CA 95826-9057

Leland Tom, Director

County of Sacramento Board of Supervisors
Roger Dickinson, District 1
Jimmie Yee, District 2
Susan Peters, District 3
Roberta MacGlashan, District 4
Don Nottoli, District 5
Terry Schutten, County Executive

Website: www.sacdhs.com/cps

Sacramento County Child Protective Services



**Keeping Children
Safe While
Strengthening
Families**

◆ What is Child Protective Services?

Sacramento County Child Protective Services (CPS) is the county agency that investigates reports of child abuse and neglect and provides services designed to keep children safe while strengthening families. The agency also recruits, trains and licenses foster families (also known as “resource families”), serves as an adoption agency, offers services to help teen foster youth transition to adulthood, and licenses family daycare homes.

CPS believes all children deserve to be raised in a safe environment. The following are descriptions of the ways CPS works in the community.

◆ Keeping Children Safe

You can help keep children safe. If a child is in a life-threatening situation, call 911. If you know or suspect child abuse and the situation does not require an immediate response by the police or sheriff’s department, call the 24-Hour Child Abuse Hotline at **916-875-5437 (875-KIDS)**. Every call is important. You will speak with a social worker that will assess your report and determine what action to take.

Calls are confidential, and callers, except for mandated reporters, do not have to give their names. Mandated reporters are people whose jobs put them in contact with children.

◆ Strengthening Families

Child safety is the highest priority for CPS. Whenever possible, we accomplish this by providing voluntary services and support to families.

When voluntary services alone are not enough to protect the child, it may be necessary to remove children from the home. CPS may also ask the Juvenile Dependency Court to provide additional protection by making children dependents of the court.

This is reserved for only the most serious cases.

If this happens, CPS may contact family members to provide children with temporary care while parents receive intensive services focused on helping them reunify with their children.

If a safe, appropriate family member is not available, CPS may place the child with a foster family or group home.

Services to help children and families may include:

- Parenting and anger management classes
- Referrals for alcohol and drug treatment
- Individual and family counseling
- Domestic violence treatment
- Emergency shelter care
- Emergency food/nutrition services
- Emergency medical services
- Referrals to community resources

◆ The Role of Foster Parents

Foster parents, also known as resource families, provide care and support for children until they can be reunified with their families or move to a permanent home through kinship placement, guardianship or adoption.

Sacramento County is one of 25 California counties using the Family to Family model, a nationwide child welfare reform initiative that offers strategies and tools to help get better results for children in foster care and their families.

Foster parents care for children anywhere from a few days to many years. Care is temporary, unless the foster family (resource family) is interested in adopting a child.

Reimbursement rates for foster parents (resource families) vary depending on the age and needs of the child.

Sacramento County always needs kind-hearted individuals and families to care for foster children. For more info, call (916) 875-5543 (875-5KID).

◆ Finding Permanent Homes

Every child deserves a family. When children cannot be safely returned to their parents’ care, CPS helps them form permanent family connections through adoption and guardianship. Relatives, extended family members and foster parents may be considered for adoptive or guardianship homes.

◆ Helping Foster Youth To Adulthood

While most foster children are reunified with their parents or live with another family, some turn 18 while in foster care. The Independent Living Program (ILP) offers support and life-skills services to help these emancipating foster youth make the transition to independence.

Workshops on balancing a checkbook, finding a job, and applying to college or vocational school help prepare young people for life as an adult.

ILP services are available to foster youth ages 14-21. For information call (916) 874-9308.