

## **DCYF Information**

DCYF  
101 Friendship Street,  
Providence, RI 02903-3716  
(401) 528-3502  
[www.dcyf.ri.gov/](http://www.dcyf.ri.gov/)

I Child Abuse Hotline Number:  
1 (800) RI-CHILD  
1 (800) 742-4453

It is the mission of DCYF to assist families with their primary responsibility to raise their children to become productive members of society. We recognize our obligations to promote, safeguard and protect the overall well-being of culturally diverse children, youth and families and the communities in which they live through a partnership with families, communities and government.

### **Child Protective Services**

The Division of Child Protective Services is comprised of Child Protective Investigations and Screening/ Intake. Child Protection Investigations consists of twelve (12) units of Child Protective Investigators who specialize in the investigation of child abuse and neglect cases. This program operates 24 hours a-day, 7 days-a-week and responds to allegations of child abuse or neglect state-wide. During the course of an investigation, Child Protective Investigators determine if there is a preponderance of evidence that a child has been abused or neglected and if so, what actions are necessary to protect the child from further harm. If, upon completion of the investigation, a preponderance of evidence indicates that a child has been abused/neglected, then the case is "Indicated" (substantiated). If a child is deemed to be in imminent risk of harm, s/he can be removed from the home and placed in the care of the State by the Child Protective Investigator (CPI) for a period of forty-eight (48) hours. This "hold" allows the investigator the opportunity to investigate further and meet with the Department's legal counsel to prepare the necessary petitions for presentation to the Rhode Island Family Court. Screening/Intake consists of five (5) casework units which handle the intake of all other non-child abuse/neglect cases to the Department as well as reviewing all indicated Child Protective Services (CPS) investigations.

If you know or suspect that a child is being abused or neglected, report it immediately to DCYF. As a matter of fact, the law requires that you do so within 24 hours. The Child Abuse Hotline, (1-800-742-4453), is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week by professional Child Protective Investigators.

## **Common Question:**

*I am under investigation by Child Protective Services. What does this mean?*

This means that a report has been received by the Child Protective Services Hot Line alleging that you, as a parent, have been or currently are responsible for the abuse and/or neglect of your child (or children). This could mean that you have actively done something, or failed to have done something, which has caused physical and/or emotional harm to the child. It could also mean that you have or had knowledge that another individual is causing or has caused such harm to your child and you have failed to protect the child from that harm.

You should expect to be contacted by Child Protective Investigators and in some cases, the Police, who will then speak to all of the family members, including the victim, as well as other individuals involved to determine the truthfulness of the allegations.

*My child won't listen to me. What can I do?*

As a parent, you need to establish appropriate rules for your child to follow and set consequences for their failure to abide by the rules. It is your job as the parent to be consistent in the enforcement of these rules and consequences. Most children respond well to structure and need to know where the "limits" are. Most children will, at some time or other, also want to test these limits. This is a normal part of growing up.

*Abuse & Neglect - I have witnessed child abuse or neglect. What do I do?*

You are what is known as a "mandated reporter", this means, that under the law, you must report any incidents which you suspect are abusive or neglectful. This is accomplished by calling the Child Protective Services Hot Line at 1-800-RI-CHILD (1-800-742-4453)

*My child has told me that somebody has hurt them. What should I do?*

As a parent, you need to question your child about the nature of the incident and the identity of the individual who hurt them. In doing this you should reassure your child that you are going to protect them from any future injury. You should contact your local Police Department with this information. If the individual is a stranger to you and your child, the police will handle the investigation. If this person is someone in the family who was acting as a caretaker of the child when the incident occurred, the police (or you) will need to call the Child Protective Services Hot Line at 1-800-RI-CHILD (1-800-742-4453) to report this abuse.

*I'm having general problems with the day-to-day process of fostering children. Who can I talk to for some help?*

Being a foster parent is not any easier than it is to be a natural parent. Everybody needs some help at some time in their lives.

If you need help or just a sympathetic ear, you should contact the worker or supervisor for child specific problems. If you do not feel comfortable doing this, you can contact the Foster Parent Mentor Program, Grand Divas Program and the Foster Parent Liaison for general problems/concerns or if you feel that are not getting the right answers from the DCYF line staff.

If you are a relative caretaker, providing placement services for the Department, you should also feel free to contact these individuals to get your questions answered..

### **Intake**

Assists families who contact DCYF for help or who are referred by the courts. A trained staff member makes an assessment of the family's strengths and needs and arranges for the appropriate services. For more information, call (401) 528-3593.

### **Family Services**

Family Service Units (FSU) provide ongoing social services and case management to children and families who have become involved with the Department due to abuse, neglect, or dependency, as well as children who are in need of mental health services. These services are organized into four regional offices throughout the state. The regions are as follows:

There are 4 Regions of Family Services Units:

[Region 1](#) - City of Providence located at  
101 Friendship Street, Providence, RI 02903  
Phone: (401) 528-3502

[Region 2](#) - Eastbay - East Providence to Newport located at:  
230 Wood Street, Bristol, RI 02809  
Phone: (401) 254-7000

[Region 3](#) - Kent and Washington Counties located at:  
650 Ten Road Road, North Kingstown, RI 02852  
Phone: (401) 294-5300

[Region 4](#) - North and Northwestern Rhode Island located at:  
249 Roosevelt Avenue, Pawtucket, RI 02860  
Phone: (401) 721-2400

Family Services social workers work closely with children and families with a goal of maintaining an intact family through supportive services. If that is not possible, our goal is the timely reunification of families, when it is safe and appropriate to do so. If reunification cannot be achieved within a year to a year and a half, the social worker will explore adoption of the child into a safe and loving home. Most children are reunited with their parent(s) after services have been provided and the family has attained a higher level of functioning.

It is the goal of Child Welfare Services to assure the safety, permanence and well being of every child who becomes involved with the Department of Children, Youth and Families.

**DCYF Programs:** <http://www.dcyf.ri.gov/programs.php>

***Family Based Programs***

*Child Welfare*

*Children & Youth*

*Adolescents*

*Rhode Island Training School (RITS)*

*General*

**Foster Care and Adoption - <http://www.dcyf.ri.gov/foster/index.php>**

Foster Care is a protective service provided to families experiencing difficulties so severe that children must be removed from their homes for a period of time. Children are removed to insure their physical and emotional safety. Foster parents are DCYF's major resource for children who need to be placed outside the home. It is the role of foster parents to offer a safe and stable home to these children while working with the agency to prepare them for their reunification with their parents.

While children are residing in a foster home, a variety of services are provided to parents and children with the objective of Foster parents tend to a child's daily needs and help him/her to adjust to their home and family. Each child will have a social worker who will help the foster parents provide the medical, educational and other supportive help that the child will need in order to adjust. Social workers coordinate the effort to reunite the child and his/her family through the provision of regular visitation as well as facilitating counseling as needed.

In order to insure the quality of care provided to the child who is placed outside his/her home, RI State law (42-72.1) mandates that all foster homes be licensed by the Department. The Department has developed specific procedures for processing foster home applications in an effort to insure that each foster home meets minimum standards of health, safety and care.

For more information:

Robin Perez, Foster Parent Recruiter  
DCYF - Adoption & Foster Care Preparation & Support  
101 Friendship Street, 3rd Floor  
Providence, RI 02903-3716

Robin Perez at 401-528-3791, or email her at [robin.perez@dcyf.ri.gov](mailto:robin.perez@dcyf.ri.gov).

Further, DCYF recognizes that foster parents provide an invaluable service to the children in their care and to the community as a whole. In an effort to assist caregivers in their work, DCYF provides a number of support services to the families and children. These services include foster board payments, clothing allowances for the children, day care for foster children of working foster parents, and medical coverage for the children. The Department also assists with the cost of smoke detectors and remote boiler switches.

Other supports available to foster parents are available in the person of DCYF's Foster Parent Liaison, Grand Divas Program at 401- 780-2255 and The Rhode Island Foster Parent Association.

The [Rhode Island Foster Parents Association](#) maintains a Help Line to provide information and/or clarify issues. RIFPA also maintains a Mentor Program for both non-relative and relative foster parents.

RI Partnership for Family Connections - Kinship Care Resource Navigator web site  
[www.kinshipcareresourcenavigator.org](http://www.kinshipcareresourcenavigator.org)

The Adoption and Foster Care Preparation and Support Unit recruits, trains and assesses families who are interested in providing a home for one of these children. The goal of the Family Assessment and Training Experience is to provide prospective adoptive families with both information and an experience which will give them and the Department a basis on which to decide whether or not special needs adoption is the best way for them to expand their family

Adoption and Foster Care Preparation and Support  
101 Friendship Steet  
Providence, RI 02903  
<http://www.dcyf.ri.gov/adoption.php>

## **Adoption Placement**

Adoption and Foster Care Preparation and Support

101 Friendship Street

Providence, RI 02903

<http://www.dcyf.ri.gov/foster/index.php>

Adoption Subsidy Questions should be directed to [Diane Savage](#) at (401) 254-7020.