



What does DCFS do?

Utah Division of Child & Family Service (DCFS)

Intake and Child Protective Services (CPS)

FY24 data

48,542

Total number of child abuse and neglect reports received by DCFS

22,650

Reports accepted for formal CPS assessment

8,791

Child victims with a supported finding of abuse or neglect

1,967

Child victims with subsequent in-home services

1,275

Child victims with subsequent foster care services



Intake and Child Protective Services (CPS)

FY24 data

CPS cases

- **22,667 total** CPS cases.
- **6,197 cases** with at least one supported allegation.

Allegations

- **53,349 total** allegations.
- **13,942 supported** allegations.

A well trained and supported workforce

Frontline staff

- **116* employees** in caseworker I positions.
 - Starting wage: \$23.60
 - Median wage: \$25.34
- **187* employees** in social services worker I positions.
 - Starting wage: \$26.21
 - Median wage: \$28.15
- **158* employees** in social services worker II positions.
 - Starting wage: \$28.83
 - Median wage: \$32.82
- **73* employees** in caseworker specialist I positions.
 - Starting wage: \$30.56
 - Median wage: \$34.79
- **28.1% turnover rate** for frontline positions.

*Employee count as of September 1, 2024

Our efforts in Utah to strengthen families and prevent further abuse are working.

Fewer than 2 out of every **1,000** children will enter foster care in Utah

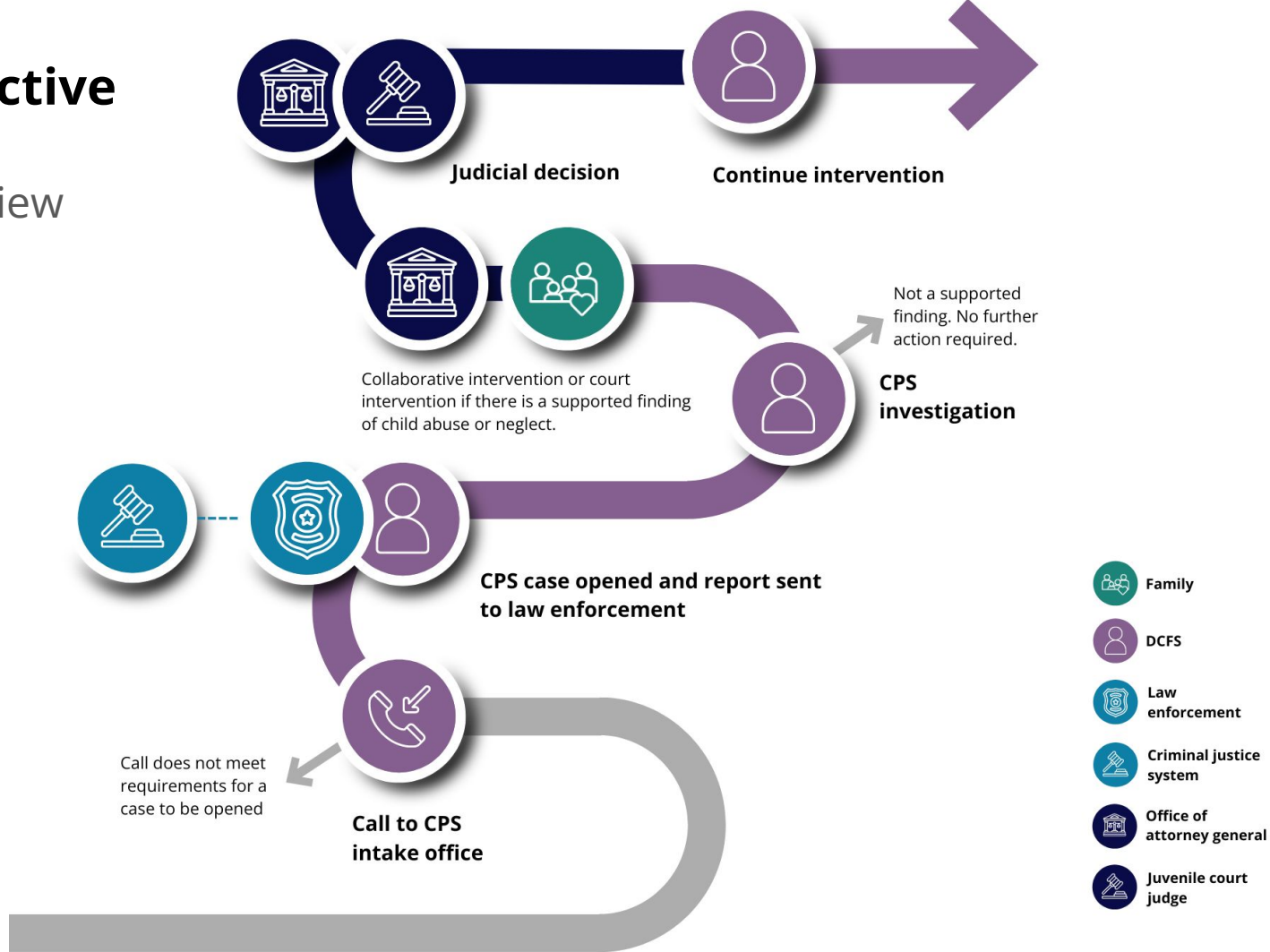
Compared to **5** of every **1,000** children nationally

Our efforts in Utah to strengthen families and prevent further abuse are working.

91.2% of confirmed victims **did not** experience repeat maltreatment within 12 months of DCFS services.

Child Protective Services

process overview





What happens when a report of suspected child abuse or neglect is made?

Reports of alleged child abuse or neglect come to a centralized intake office. A trained professional collects information to find out if the report meets the criteria to open an investigation.

Allegations must meet the child abuse and neglect statutes outlined in Utah state law in order for DCFS to open an investigation.



CPS investigation is opened

An investigation is opened and a CPS worker is assigned to investigate the case. A report is sent to law enforcement every time a case is opened.

DCFS findings of child abuse or neglect are not criminal charges.



What happens during a CPS investigation?

- Review any involvement the child or family had with DCFS in the past.
- Interviews with child, parent, and caregiver.
- Interviews with person alleged to be responsible for abuse or neglect.
- Interviews with third-party collateral contacts, like teachers or doctors.
- Conduct an assessment of safety and risk.
- Suicide screener on every child age 10 and older (this is also conducted regularly as a part of in-home and foster care services).
- Safe sleep assessment if a mother is pregnant or if there is a child 12 months or younger.
- Developmental milestone checklist for children who are non-verbal or younger than age 5.
- In most cases a home visit or unannounced home visit.



Types of findings from CPS investigations:

- Unsupported
- Supported
- Without merit
- Unable to locate
- Unable to complete
- False report



What is a safety and risk assessment?

Assessing safety means finding out:

- If there are any dangers that could cause harm right now
- How likely it is the child will be hurt by those dangers now and in the future
- Making sure there are enough protective factors in place to keep the child safe



Database

DCFS is required to maintain information and records regarding all investigations of child abuse, neglect, or dependency. These records are kept in the confidential DCFS database.



What systems are in place to hold DCFS accountable?

- DCFS internal review
- DCFS Constituent Services
- Child Protection Ombuds (CPO)
- Case Process Review (CPR)
- Child and Family Services Review + (CFSR+)
- Federal Child and Family Services Review (CFSR)
- DHHS Fatality Review Committee
- Child Welfare Legislative Oversight Panel (CWLOP)



How does DCFS receive feedback from community partners?

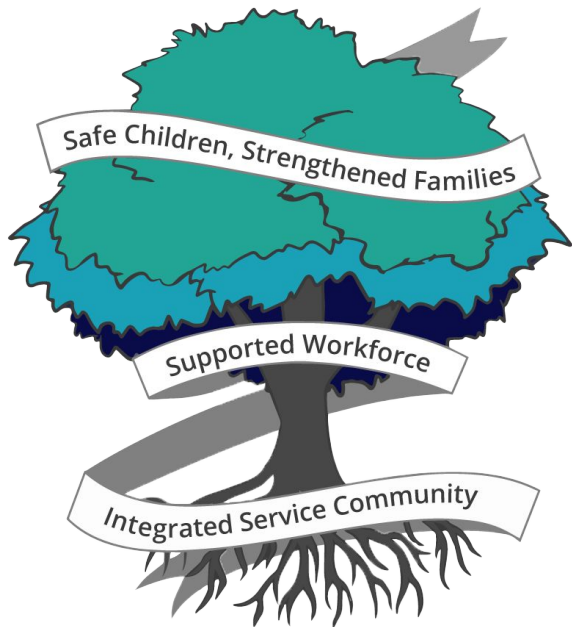
DCFS has strong relationships with the many community partners involved in the child welfare system.

Monthly meetings are held between DCFS leadership and leaders from different community partners with the purpose of discussing what is going on, what has been going well, and providing an opportunity to address potential barriers facing the child welfare system.



How does DCFS receive feedback from community members?

- Child Welfare Improvement Committee (CWIC)
- Foster Care and Kinship Advisory Board
- Regional Quality Improvement Committees (QIC)
- Youth Advisory Council (YAC)



Thank you

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DCFS 24 hour reporting hotline
1-855-323-3237(DCFS)