

When CPS —Child Protective Services— receives a report of alleged abuse or neglect of a child, it must initiate an investigation. The nature of the allegations and the age of the child affect how quickly an investigation is started. A social worker conducts the CPS investigation. (There may also be an investigation by the police if the abuse or neglect involves criminal conduct.)

The social worker will attempt to gather information regarding the alleged abuse or neglect by conducting interviews with the child, the child's caretaker, the parent or guardian who is caring for the child, other persons living in the child's home, and other persons who may have information regarding the allegations or the child's situation.

The social worker may also gather information from other CPS agencies, law enforcement, medical personnel, and school personnel. Nevada law authorizes the investigative social worker to interview a child concerning any possible abuse or neglect without the consent of, and outside the presence of, the parent or guardian.

In gathering the information, the social worker will assess the immediate safety and the future risk of harm of the children in the home. The social worker will consider factors such as the severity of the injury or threat of harm, the age of the child, the development of the child, prior abuse and neglect history in the family, the child's home environment, and other risk factors and family strengths.



Abuse and Neglect. There are several types of abuse or neglect of a child, such as:

Physical Injury (NRS 432B.090): Injury to a child which is non-accidental. Such injuries include bruises, cuts, bites, burns, and/or broken bones. An injury is non-accidental if it is reasonably foreseeable, even though it was not intended.

Mental Injury (NRS 432B.070): Injury to a child's intellectual or psychological capacity or emotional condition causing the child's normal range of performance or behavior to be impaired.

Sexual Abuse or Exploitation (NRS 432B.100-110):

Engaging in sexual activity with a child, including fondling and lewdness, or encouraging or allowing a child to view pornographic material, engage in prostitution, or engaging in pornography.

Negligent Treatment or Maltreatment NRS 432B.140): Abandonment or failure to provide a child with proper care, control or supervision, food, education, shelter, medical care or other care a child needs for his well-being. This could include not having a safe home, leaving a young child alone, or leaving a child with someone who does not properly care for the child or is unable to care for the child. This could also include using or being under the influence of drugs in the presence of the child or while caring for the child.

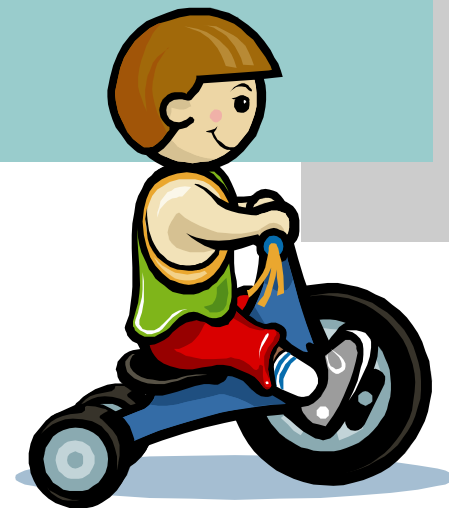


CASA OF CARSON CITY



Child Abuse and Neglect reporting to CPS—Child Protective Services.

It's about children!



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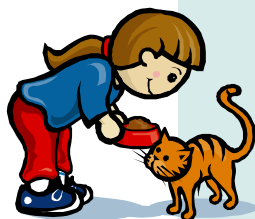
Reporting is Important!

When do I report? When you are worried that a child—anyone under the age of 18—is being abused or neglected. You don't need to be certain that it is abuse or neglect. Leave that decision to the professionals—the people who answer the phone at CPS: Child Protective Services.



Who reports? Anyone can report. Nevada law requires certain people to make a report with CPS or the police if they know or believe a child is being abused or neglected. Those people include doctors, dentists, nurses, hospital personnel, daycare providers, clergy, social workers, teachers, and counselors.

If people who are required to make a report fail to do so, they are guilty of a crime. Any other person who believes a child is being abused or neglected may



make a report to CPS or the police. The identity of the person who made the report is confidential and cannot be disclosed. However, if a person knowingly makes a false report, the court can order that person's identity to be released. See NRS 432B.220

What do I say? Give the details. Include the child's name, any family names, location, age and everything you know or have seen. The child's age is particularly important. Be sure to mention any difficulty, disability or developmental challenge that the child may have. See NRS 432B.230

Will I hear back? No. Your report is confidential. And the results are confidential.

I reported once but I still see bad things happening to this child. Call again. Each concern should be reported. Don't assume that nothing was done about the first report.

CPS Investigation. The investigating social worker may determine that the risk to a child is such that the child can remain safely in the home with services provided to the family and may offer voluntarily services (NRS 432B.360) Or the Agency may seek court involvement. If the family willingly cooperates with CPS in participating in the services, oftentimes the matter can be handled informally. CPS and the family will develop a voluntary Case Plan and Service Agreement (case plan), which identifies services for the family.



If the risk to the child requires CPS placement of the child (NRS 432B.390) CPS may petition the court for legal custody and seek court involvement. CPS may still offer services; however, the family's participation in those services is then court-ordered.

Child riding with a drunk driver, not properly in a car seat or other emergency?

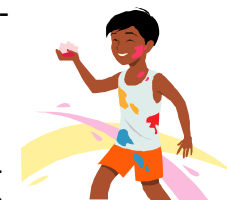
Call The Carson City Sheriff's Dept.:

911 or 887-2500

Is My Report Confidential? Yes. Nevada law forbids the disclosure of a reporter's identity. CPS takes specific steps to avoid such disclosure. See NRS 432B.280

Can't I just give the parents good advice? If you know the parents and they will listen, it is always nice to give good advice.

Still, remember that children have a right to be safe and that our taxes pay professionals to assess situations and respond. In some situations, what you are seeing may be just the tip of the iceberg. There may be other problems for the child that you don't see. Your report may make a big difference for this child. It may also make a difference for their younger or older siblings.



How do I report to CPS in Carson City?

687-4943

The Division of Child and Family Services provides CPS services in Carson City. During the message dial 0. Ask the receptionist for "Intake" or say you wish to make an abuse or neglect report. After hours, call the Sheriff's Department at 911.

THE FINE PRINT... This brochure does not contain everything you may wish to know and is not a statement of official policy or regulation for any state or county agency. For legal advice, consult an attorney.

For Nevada Law see "Law Library" at <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/>

The statute on child abuse and neglect: NRS 432b. PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM ABUSE AND NEGLECT.

<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/NRS/NRS-432B.html>