

Overview and Purpose of the DCS Child Welfare Policy Manual

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) partners with children and families to provide services in order to address issues that lead to Child Abuse and/or Neglect (CA/N) and ensure the safety, permanency, stability, and well-being of children. DCS also assesses allegations of CA/N and oversees licensing services for resource parents and child caring institutions. In addition, DCS is responsible for child support services and partners with county Prosecuting Attorneys, county Clerks of the Court, and various other local, state, and federal agencies to assist families with child support services under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act.

Note: The DCS Child Welfare Policy Manual does not address child support policy except to the extent that it intersects with child welfare policy.

The DCS Child Welfare Policy Manual is comprised of various chapters that contain information directly related to the duties of DCS staff members. The sections within each policy are:

- **Policy Overview:** Provides a brief summary about the purpose of the policy.
- **Procedure:** Outlines the series of steps to be taken by DCS in partnership with families.
- **Legal References:** Federal and state laws, rules, and regulations, which establish the authority of the agency and set statutory parameters of agency authority within those areas.
- **Relevant Information:** Includes definitions; links to forms, tools, and other sites that are in the policy and/or offer additional information; and links to other policies referenced within the document.