

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 4: Assessment Section 08: Entry into Home or Facility	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 5

POLICY OVERVIEW

When assessing allegations of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (CA/N), the Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will take all necessary steps to protect the child's safety and well-being when visiting their home or facility.

POLICY STATEMENT

DCS must get permission before entering a home or facility for any reason, including making in-person contact with a child.

Note: If exigent circumstances exist, see policy [4.06](#).

Permission to enter a home or facility:

1. Must be given by an adult who lives in the home or facility; and
2. Does not mean consent is given to interview the child.

Note: Children under the age of 18 cannot give permission to enter the home.

To interview the child at the child's school, DCS must show to the school (this also allows for DCS to interview the child alone):

1. Their official DCS identification badge; and
2. A written statement that says: "**DCS has parental consent or a court order, or exigent circumstances exist as defined by IC 31-9-2-44.1 to interview {insert child's name}.**"

Note: The written statement may be an email or a handwritten note that DCS creates while in the school. It **must not** include any allegations or evidence and must protect the confidentiality of the child and the child's family.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 31-9-2-44.1: "Exigent circumstances"](#)
- [IC 31-33-8-7: Scope of assessment by department of child services; order for access to home, school, or other place, or for mental or physical examinations; petition to interview child; order; requirements](#)