

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 12: Foster Family Home Licensing Section 23: Evaluation of Child Abuse or Neglect Allegations or Complaints Involving Foster Family Homes	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 4

POLICY OVERVIEW

It is important that children are safe in their Foster Family Homes (FFH). This includes assessing any reports of abuse or neglect involving the FFH.

POLICY STATEMENT

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) is responsible for assessing any Child Abuse and/or Neglect (CA/N) allegation involving:

- DCS FFH applicants, licensees, and household members
- Licensed Child Placing Agency (LCPA) FFH applicants, licensees, and household members.

Note: This includes conducting formal assessments to decide whether abuse or neglect has occurred.

The DCS local office or the LCPA is responsible for assessing licensing rule violations that do not meet the statutory definition of CA/N.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 31-27-4-17: Probationary status; duration; expiration; extension](#)
- [IC 31-27-4-18: Inspection of foster family homes](#)
- [IC 31-27-4-19: Records of monitoring activities and inspections](#)
- [IC 31-27-4-20: Cooperation by licensees](#)
- [IC 31-27-4-33: Compliance with rules; disciplinary sanctions; revocation of license](#)
- [465 IAC 2-1.5: Licensing of Foster Family Homes for Children](#)