

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 4: Assessment Section 14: Examining and Photographing a Child and/or Trauma	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 4

POLICY OVERVIEW

DCS will look at and take pictures of a child and/or their injuries to check for Child Abuse and/or Neglect (CA/N). Documenting what is found is very important to complete an assessment of CA/N.

POLICY STATEMENT

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will look at and document the child's injuries in the least disruptive way while considering the child's age, gender, and emotional well-being. DCS will use the following guidelines:

1. If the child needs to see a doctor immediately, DCS will inform the non-offending parent, guardian, or custodian and check if they can take the child to the doctor; and

Note: If the non-offending parent cannot be reached, DCS may ask the police for help or call 911.

2. If the child doesn't need to see a doctor immediately and the injury is easy to see, DCS will go ahead with examining, photographing, and recording the injury.
3. DCS will not check or take pictures of a child who might have been sexually abused. This includes private areas like the anus, genitalia, or breasts. A doctor will do these checks.

Note: DCS can use photos taken by the police or doctors.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 31-33-8-3: Photographs and x-rays](#)
- [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](#)
- [IC 31-33-10-1: Duty to photograph, x-ray, and physically examine trauma visible on child](#)
- [IC 31-33-10-3: Photographs, x-rays, and physical medical examinations; delivery to department of child services; notice of existence](#)