

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 4: Assessment Section 13: Assessing and Documenting the Home and Living Conditions	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 9

POLICY OVERVIEW

Observing and documenting where the child lives helps to determine if any conditions are there that support the child abuse and/or neglect (CA/N) allegations.

POLICY STATEMENT

DCS will complete an assessment (announced or unannounced) of the home and living conditions of an alleged child victim if:

1. The alleged CA/N occurred in the child's home;
2. The alleged child victim lives with the alleged perpetrator; or
3. There are worries about the home and the impact on the child's safety and well-being.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [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](#)