

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 4: Assessment Section 30: Institutional Investigations	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 10

POLICY OVERVIEW

The Institutional Child Protection Services (ICPS) Unit investigates reports of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (CA/N) if the incident occurred while the child was in an institution's care.

POLICY STATEMENT

The DCS ICPS Unit will work with a Law Enforcement Agency (LEA) when looking into CA/N in the following (including their employees or volunteers):

1. Licensed child care homes;
2. Residential childcare centers; or
3. Schools.

The DCS ICPS Unit will not work an investigation on an unlicensed registered child care ministry without LEA involvement unless the child care ministry gets Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) vouchers.

The ICPS Unit will also look into a report of CA/N if the alleged victim is between 18 and 21 years old and lives or used to live at a DCS-licensed residential facility. They will investigate if the victim is harmed or threatened by a staff member because of:

1. A battery offense; or
2. Sexual activity.

Investigations Involving Institutions Licensed, Certified, or Monitored by Another State Agency

If one of the below state agencies licenses, certifies, or otherwise monitors an institution where the CA/N assessment is happening, DCS will share information with that agency:

1. Indiana Department of Correction (DOC);
2. Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA): Bureau of Disabilities (BDS);
3. FSSA: Division of Mental Health; or
4. FSSA: Division of Family Resources.

If another executive branch state agency is involved with the child or family, DCS will work with the designated contact from the agency.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 31-9-2-133: "Victim of child abuse or neglect"](#)
- [IC 31-33: ARTICLE 33. JUVENILE LAW: REPORTING AND INVESTIGATION OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT](#)

- [IC 31-33-7-8: Reports after initiation of assessment or investigation; contents; confidentiality](#)
- [IC 31-33-8-1: Investigations by the department of child services; time of initiation; investigations of child care ministries](#)
- [IC 31-33-18-2: Disclosure of unredacted material to certain persons](#)