

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 2: Administration of Child Welfare Section 31: Handling Suspected Child Sexual Abuse Material	
	Effective Date: July 1, 2026	Version: 4

POLICY OVERVIEW

Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) staff might find Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) while working. If they suspect CSAM, they will follow the law, document clearly, and make sure the child's safety and privacy come first.

POLICY STATEMENT

The law allows DCS employees to possess CSAM as part of their job. They must follow these rules:

1. Do not upload suspected CSAM into the case management system,
2. Do not make copies of CSAM,
3. Do not forward CSAM that is electronic or was received electronically.

Exception: DCS can send CSAM to law enforcement so they can take possession of it.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 35-42-4-4: Child exploitation; exemptions; defenses](#)
- [IC 35-36-10-2: "Child sexual abuse material"](#)
- [IC 35-42-4-4.5: Possession of child sexual abuse material; exemptions; defenses](#)
- [IC 35-49-1: Chapter 1. Definitions](#)
- [IC 35-49-2: Chapter 2. General Provisions](#)