

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 4: Assessment Section 10: Interviewing the Parent, Guardian, or Custodian	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 7

POLICY OVERVIEW

Talking with people is an important part of an assessment. The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) tries to talk with the parent(s), guardian(s), or custodian(s) of children who may have been abused or neglected.

POLICY STATEMENT

DCS must do an in-person interview with the parent(s), guardian(s), or custodian(s) of the child who may be a victim of child abuse or neglect (CA/N) (called an alleged victim). DCS should find and talk to each parent even if they do not have custody. If DCS cannot find someone or they say “no” to an interview, DCS may skip that interview.

If a parent, guardian, or custodian is the person who may have caused the abuse or neglect (called an alleged perpetrator), DCS will follow all steps outlined in policy [4.11](#) and do a separate interview.

DCS should try to do these interviews on the same day as the interview with the child, if possible. Interviews must be done in a private place without interruptions.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 31-9-2-88: “Parent”](#)
- [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 31-33-18-4: Notice to parent, guardian, or custodian of availability of reports, information, and juvenile court records; release form; copying costs](#)