

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 4: Assessment Section 50: New Child in Household of a Parent or Custodian with an Open Case	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 2

POLICY OVERVIEW

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) looks at the whole situation when completing an assessment of alleged Child Abuse and/or Neglect (CA/N) involving a new child in the household of a parent, guardian, or custodian with an open DCS case. This helps to ensure the safety and well-being of the new child.

POLICY STATEMENT

DCS will assess reports of alleged CA/N involving a new child in the home of a parent, guardian, or custodian with an open case. This includes:

1. Informal Adjustments (IAs);
2. In-Home Child in Need of Services (CHINS); and
3. Out-of-Home CHINS.

A new child may include:

1. A newborn;
2. A child that has moved into the home; or
3. A child who visits the home regularly (or on a continual basis).

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 31-33-8-1: Investigations by local child protective services; time of initiation](#)
- [IC 31-33-8-2: Investigations by law enforcement agencies](#)
- [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 31-34-12-4.5: Presumption if living in household with adult who committed or has been charged with specified offense](#)
- [IC 31-34-12-4.6: Circumstances creating rebuttable presumption that child is in need of services](#)