

	<b>INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES</b> <b>CHILD WELFARE POLICY</b>	
	<b>Chapter 5:</b> General Case Management <b>Section 25:</b> New Child in the Household of a Parent or Custodian with an Open Case	
	<b>Effective Date:</b> January 1, 2026	<b>Version:</b> 2

**POLICY OVERVIEW**

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) makes sure that all new children in the home are safe and well. This is especially important if the parent guardian, or custodian already has an open DCS case (i.e., Informal Adjustment [IA], In-Home Child in Need of Services [CHINS], and Out-of-Home CHINS).

**POLICY STATEMENT**

DCS will make sure a report is called into the Hotline when there is a new child residing in the home of the parent, guardian, or custodian who already has an open DCS case.

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 31-34-12-4.5: Presumption that child is child in need of services if child resides with adult who has committed or been charged with specific acts](#)
- [IC 31-34-12.4.6: Circumstances creating rebuttable presumption that child is in need of services](#)