

## During a CPS assessment DHS staff are expected to:

- Treat you with dignity and respect, free from discrimination.
- Accommodate your language or other special needs.
- Assess the report of child abuse in a timely manner.
- Notify you if you are the “alleged perpetrator” in a report of abuse and tell you general information about the report and why an assessment is being conducted.
- Inform you of the outcome of the assessment.
- Provide you with the opportunity to speak to a manager if you have concerns regarding DHS’s actions.
- Inform you of the option to have a consulting foster parent or relative caregiver available for support during the assessment and the names of foster parents and relative caregivers who have agreed to serve in this role.
- Provide you with the opportunity to discuss certification issues with your certifier and to discuss the CPS assessment with the CPS worker.

**Your CPS worker is:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone number:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**The CPS supervisor is:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone number:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**The Certification worker is:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**The Certification supervisor:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Upon request this publication can be furnished in an alternate format for individuals with disabilities by calling 503-945-5683 or faxing 503-378-3800.**

**Available formats are large print, Braille, audio tape recording, electronic and oral presentation.**

## Who can be notified of the disposition?

Within 10 days of the department determining the disposition of the CPS assessment the following individuals must be notified, unless this notification may interfere with an investigation or assessment or jeopardize the child’s safety:

- Attorney for the child,
- CASA for the child,
- Child’s legal parents and their attorneys,
- Juvenile Court,
- DHS staff responsible for children placed in your home, and/or
- Others as necessary or required for the CPS assessment.



# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW *about a* CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICE ASSESSMENT FOSTER CARE

*The Oregon Department of Human Services Child Welfare program is required to assess reports of child abuse. This includes abuse allegations concerning children placed in foster care. This pamphlet was designed to answer questions you may have about the Child Protective Service assessment process regarding the foster children placed in your home.*

### **Why has a child protective service (CPS) assessment been initiated?**

DHS has received a report alleging a foster child placed in your care has been abused or neglected by someone in your home.

### **Who could be notified of this CPS assessment?**

Depending on the specific situation, DHS may notify:

- Police (per statute, all suspected reports of child abuse must be reported to the police),
- Child Care Division (if you are a licensed in-home day care provider),
- The child's attorney,
- The child's CASA,
- The child's legal parents and their attorneys, unless this notification may interfere with an investigation or assessment, or jeopardize the child's safety,
- Juvenile Court,
- DHS staff responsible for children placed in your home, and/or
- Others as necessary to complete the CPS assessment.

### **What should I expect during an assessment?**

- You will be placed on "inactive referral status" while the assessment takes place. This means no additional foster children will be placed in your home.
- A CPS caseworker and/or a law enforcement officer will meet with you and your family.
- A CPS caseworker will interview or arrange for interviews of all children in your home. If appropriate, the worker may interview the children before contacting you.
- The child may receive medical attention or a medical exam as part of the assessment. A DHS caseworker may ask you for assistance with the medical appointment.

### **Can DHS remove children placed in my home?**

DHS has the discretion to remove foster children placed in your home if the department determines the foster children are unsafe.

### **When will I have the results of the assessment and what could those results be?**

- CPS must begin an assessment within 24 hours or within five days of the report, depending on what is reported.
- CPS has 30 days to complete the assessment.
- If there is critical information that cannot be gathered within 30 days, the CPS caseworker may obtain a supervisory exception to extend the assessment for an additional 30 days.
- At the conclusion of the assessment DHS will decide whether the report of child abuse or neglect is "founded," "unfounded" or "unable to determine." This finding is the CPS assessment disposition.
- Within 10 days of the conclusion of the assessment you will be informed of the disposition.

### **Definitions**

**"Founded"** means there is reasonable cause to believe child abuse occurred.

**"Unable to determine"** means there are some indications of child abuse or neglect, but there is insufficient data to conclude that there is reasonable cause to believe that child abuse or neglect occurred.

**"Unfounded"** means no evidence of child abuse was identified or disclosed.

### **Can I challenge the results of the disposition?**

You will receive notice of the disposition of the assessment. If you are named as the perpetrator of abuse you will receive a letter which explains your right to have the founded disposition reviewed.