



Report Child Abuse

Report Fraud



Home How do I... I Am Assistance Programs Child Care Protecting Children DCF Partners

CPS Agency Contacts

Mandated Reporters

The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families website will be unavailable for extended periods of time on Saturday, June 9, between 4 a.m. and 4 p.m. to perform needed system maintenance. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Signs of Child Abuse

Safe Haven

Report Abuse

Victim/Survivor Services

CPS Process

CPS Appeal Process

Rehabilitation Review

CPS Critical Incidents

# Child Protective Services Appeal Process

Child Protective Services (CPS) agencies investigate reports of child abuse or neglect. If they decide child abuse or neglect happened, they will "substantiate." The agency may say who caused the abuse or neglect. CPS calls the person who abused or neglected the child(ren) the "maltreater." Wisconsin State law provides definitions of child abuse and neglect. If CPS "substantiates," or in other words, decides that you did abuse or neglect a child:

You will get a letter with this decision. The letter explains how to try to change this decision.

▶ If you would like to appeal the decision

▶ If you disagree with the upheld decision and would like to try to change the decision

Additional helpful information can be found in the following pamphlets:

- [Review and Appeal Processes for Determinations of Child Abuse and Neglect - English](#)
- [Review and Appeal Processes for Determinations of Child Abuse and Neglect - Hmong](#)
- [Review and Appeal Processes for Determinations of Child Abuse and Neglect - Spanish](#)

An Overview of the CPS Process is a visual representation of the process.

---

[About DCF](#)

[Public Meetings](#)

[Careers](#)

[Request Records](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Wisconsin.gov](#)

[Press](#)