



Child Abuse

The NH Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) is dedicated to assisting families in the protection, development, permanency and well being of their children and the communities in which they live. Child protection and family support services are provided by Child Protective Service Workers (CPSWs) in 12 District Offices throughout New Hampshire. Under certain circumstances, DCYF also provides voluntary services to families that request them. These are available to families that have not had a finding of abuse or neglect.

DCYF strives to protect children from abuse and neglect and to help families nurture their children into physically and emotionally healthy adults. The prevention and identification of child abuse and neglect is a community responsibility that depends on the cooperation of all community members. In situations where abuse, neglect or sexual abuse is suspected or if discussion with the family does not relieve concerns, then the Division for Children, Youth and Families should be contacted at **603-271-6562 or 1-800-894-5533 (In state only) 24 hours per day.**

If you suspect that a child is being abused or neglected, NH state law requires that you report your concerns to the DCYF Central Intake Unit immediately. Proof of abuse or neglect is not required before reporting. Early reporting often prevents greater harm to children and other family members. The same law that requires reporting (RSA 169-C) also states that any person who makes a report in good faith is immune from any civil or criminal liability. It is better to make your concerns known than to remain silent and possibly allow a child to be seriously harmed.