

**KEY SERVICES**

Adoption Services  
Adult Services & Aging  
Aging & Disability Resource Connections (ADRC)  
Behavioral Health Services  
Child Care Services  
Child Protection Services  
Child Safety Seats  
Child Support  
Children's Health Insurance  
Community Behavioral Health  
Correctional Behavioral Health  
Constituent Liaison Services  
Economic Assistance  
Energy & Weatherization Assistance  
Fair Hearings  
Foster Parenting  
Hospital Info for Counties  
Human Services Center  
Indian Child Welfare Act  
Long-Term Care Partnership  
Medical Eligibility  
Medical Services  
Medicare Part D  
Medicaid Electronic Health Records  
Incentive Payment Program  
Recoveries & Benefit Fraud  
SD MEDX  
Sales Tax on Food Refund  
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families  
Victims' Services  
Well-Child Care

**KEY RESOURCES**

DSS Local Offices and Map  
DSS Statistical Information  
Federal Poverty Guidelines  
Frequently Asked Questions  
HIPAA Information  
Links and Resources  
Medicaid Tribal Consultation  
South Dakota Laws  
How Do I...  
What Is...

**CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES****Protective Services**

Protective Services are services providing responses to reports of child abuse and neglect. They include receipt and assessment of reports and support to children and families when children are determined to be unsafe.

- Signs of Abuse and Neglect
- Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect
- Frequently Asked Questions about Protective Services
- National Child Abuse Prevention Month Information Gateway

State law requires the following persons to report child abuse as defined in SDCL 26-8A-3, these persons are also referred to as mandatory reporters:

- Doctors
- Mental Health Professionals
- Social Workers
- Counselors
- Child Care Providers
- Hospital and School Personnel
- Law Enforcement Officers
- Parole or Court Services Officers
- Religious Healing Practitioners
- Domestic Abuse Shelter Employees or Volunteers
- Coroners or any Safety-Sensitive Position (as defined in SDCL 23-3-64 (2))

Failure by a mandatory reporter to report child abuse or neglect is a misdemeanor. Anyone who has reasonable cause to suspect a person under age 18 has been abused or neglected may make a report. The report is made to the Department of Social Services, law enforcement or the state's attorney.

The Division of Child Protection Services and law enforcement agencies are required by law to investigate reports of child abuse or neglect. Any person who knows or suspects a child has been physically or emotionally injured, neglected or sexually abused should report it immediately.

When a report of abuse and neglect is assigned, the Division of Child Protection Services completes an initial family assessment. An initial family assessment is a neutral approach to gathering information about the report. Information is gathered through interviews, observations and reviewing documents. If it is determined the child is unsafe or there are foreseeable threats of harm, a Family Services Specialist will work jointly with the parents on a plan to improve the situation. Normally, a child would not be removed from the home. However, if a child appears to be in immediate danger, a judge may order removal of the child from the situation or a law enforcement officer may take protective custody.

Support and home-based services are available to families in which children are determined to be unsafe because of abuse or neglect. Support services include training for families in parenting skills and home management and referrals for counseling and other assistance.

Adoption Services  
Baby Moses Law  
CPS Local Offices  
Foster Parenting  
Independent Living Program  
Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)  
Interstate Compact  
Licensing Information  
Parenting Program  
Placement Services  
Protective Services

**See Also...**

Child Care Services  
Child Support Services  
Children's Health Insurance Program

**Resources**

DSS Recent News  
DSS Employment  
DSS FAQ's  
Forms & Publications  
HIPAA Information