

After the Call:

What happens after Child Protective Services has been called

What is Child Protective Services (CPS)?

Child Protective Services is a part of the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services that tries to protect children from child abuse or neglect.

What does CPS do?

CPS gets information of child abuse or neglect from people, then CPS investigates, then decides if the reports are true or false.

Someone has called and reported you or someone in your family for either child abuse or neglect.

What happens next?

A CPS caseworker will try to contact you 24 hours in advance to tell you about the charges of the report and when he/she will come to interview you and the child.

What is involved in an investigation?

- The caseworker will talk to the child and look for signs of abuse and/or neglect. The interview may be audio or video taped. Your child may also be taken to a different place for the interview and examination.
- The caseworker may also interview and visually examine other children in the home; interview anyone with information; look at medical, mental, and/or criminal records of you or others involved; or ask for more examinations.
- The caseworker will discuss the report and leave a phone number for you to contact him/her. You should ask to see the caseworker's PRS ID card.

Will the police be called?

CPS must inform the police of all reports of suspected abuse or neglect. The police then decide whether to conduct their own criminal investigation.

Will CPS take my child away?

CPS can remove a child for abuse and/or neglect only after a court orders it or there is immediate danger to the child's physical health or safety.

How long do I have to wait for the report?

The caseworker normally completes the investigation report in 30 days.

What if I disagree with the report?

First speak to the caseworker. If you need more help, you may call the immediate supervisor and ask for an administrative review of the investigation findings. The supervisor will make an informal review within 14 days. If this is unsuccessful, try an advocacy group or lawyer.

Somebody has reported you to CPS, can you ever know who did it?

No, that person's name is private and the law protects him/her.
It is illegal to tell who made the report.

Sources:

Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services. (n.d.) A parent's guide to a Child Protective Services (CPS) investigation. Retrieved July 2, 2003 from http://www.tdprs.state.tx.us/Child_protection/About_Child_Protective_Services/parentguide.asp

Texas Legislature Online. (2002, May 31). Chapter 261 Investigation of Report of Child Abuse or Neglect. Retrieved July 2, 2003 from <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/statutes/fa/fa0026100toc.html>