Protecting children.
Strengthening families.

The Allegheny County DHS Office of Children, Youth and Families (CYF) is required by law to:

- prevent child abuse, neglect and exploitation;
- preserve families whenever possible; and
- provide a safe and loving permanent home for children, either by assuring safety within the child's own family or by finding another permanent setting for children who cannot be safely reunified with their family.

To report child abuse or neglect everyone is encouraged to call 412-473-2000 or 1-800-932-0313 if you are concerned about the well-being of a person under the age of 18 years.

These numbers answer 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

CYF Office Locations

CYF Administrative Office
412-350-5701
Human Services Building
One Smithfield Street, Suite 400
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

CYF Regional Offices
Intake: 412-473-2000
10700 Frankstown Road, Suite 301
Penn Hills, PA 15235
Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Central
412-350-3600
1401 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

East
412-473-1100
10700 Frankstown Road, Suite 101
Penn Hills, PA 15235

Mon Valley
412-664-8900
355 Lincoln Highway, Suite 5
North Versailles, PA 15137

North
412-323-6100
901 Pennsylvania Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15233

South
412-488-8500
2100 Wharton Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Permanency
412-473-2300
10 Duff Road, Suite 500
Pittsburgh, PA 15235

DHS IS
responsible for providing and administering publicly funded services to Allegheny County residents.

DHS PRINCIPLES
All services will be

- high quality, comprehensive, and accessible.
- individualized and designed to be respectful of the unique cultural characteristics of each individual and/or community
- integrated and offered through a team approach that recognizes the capacity of individuals and families to identify their own strengths, needs, and goals; create relationships with natural supports; and take steps necessary to accomplish these goals.

Children, Youth and Families

Sara Innamorato
ALLEGHENY COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Erin Dalton
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Phone: 412-350-5701
Fax: 412-350-4004
www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/cyf

Human Services Building
One Smithfield Street, Suite 400
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Allegheny County Department of Human Services complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race (to include hair type, hair texture, or hair style), color, ancestry, national origin (including Limited English Proficiency), ancestry or place of birth, disability, age (40 and over), sex (to include pregnancy status, childbirth status, breastfeeding status, sex assigned at birth, gender identity or expression, affectional or sexual orientation, and differences in sex development), religious creed (to include all aspects of religious observances and practice, as well as belief), marital status, familial status, use of guide or support animal because of blindness, deafness or physical disability.

*DHS funding information is available at **www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/funding.aspx***
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Children, Youth and Families

Because each child is precious and entitled to protection, security and the essentials of life.

To report suspected child abuse or neglect, call 412-473-2000

ALLEGHENY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

alleghenycounty.us/dhs

Supporting Families

The Department of Human Services provides services intended to reduce stressors that may lead to child abuse and neglect including:

- neighborhood family support centers
- after-school and summer programs
- parenting support for moms and dads
- job readiness and training services
- basics of living – food, education and shelter
- services related to mental health and substance abuse

Allegations of Child Mistreatment

All reports to CYF alleging child maltreatment are investigated. If the allegation includes bodily injury, sexual abuse, serious neglect, or serious mental injury, CYF will conduct a Child Protective Services (CPS) investigation. If the allegation indicates a lesser level of neglect, injury, truancy or related issues, a General Protective Services (GPS) assessment is conducted. Both involve interviewing family members and others to determine:

- if /what maltreatment occurred;
- if the children are safe;
- if any child is at risk in the household and
- if formal child welfare services should be offered to the family.

If no maltreatment occurred but the family expresses a need for services, CYF will refer them to community supports and resources.

If Maltreatment is Indicated

Family Services

It is the same as permanent legal custodianship except that the state of Pennsylvania, through CYF, provides financial assistance to the custodian to help care for the child. The subsidy is initiated after Juvenile Court approves and finalizes the custodianship.

Out-of-home placement

If a judge determines that children need to be removed from the home and live elsewhere while their parents work to improve the home environment, they will be placed in one of the following forms of out-of-home temporary care:

- Kinship foster care is the preferred option as it places the child (or sibling group) with kin or close friends.
- Family foster care is available when no qualifying kin are available. Foster care is provided by an appropriate family that has been licensed by the state.
- Treatment foster care is used for children who have exceptional behavioral health or other clinical needs.
- Group care, also known as “congregate care” is a placement in a non-family, residential group setting.
- Residential care provides additional supports on a residential campus to children, youth and young adults whose special needs require specialized care.
- Supervised Independent Living gives older youth the opportunity to live in an apartment with other youth as they receive services to prepare them for adulthood.

A Permanent Home

If a child has been removed due to safety reasons, CYF helps the family access the services or supports identified in the family plan as being necessary for the reunification of the family.

A judge in Children’s Court reviews the progress made toward completing the family plan. S/he decides if the parents are making the necessary changes to create a safe home for their children.

Permanency options

The child’s permanent home is chosen by a judge,based on the best interest of the child after hearing all recommendations made in court.

The permanency options in order of desirability are:

- Family reunification - returning the children to a safe environment with their birth parent(s).
- Adoption - when a judge decides that a child cannot be safely reunited with his/her birth family and parental rights are terminated.
- Permanent Legal Custodianship - when a (usually kin) foster family accepts legal responsibility for the child but the birth parents still have certain parental rights.
- Permanent placement with a fit and willing relative - when relatives are committed to long-term care but will not adopt or become legal custodians.

Independent Living Programs

Young adults who were or are in foster care for at least 30 days after their 14th birthday are eligible to utilize a variety of programs to help them successfully transition into adulthood.

Depending on program age limits and an assessment of need, young adults can take advantage of services related to education, housing, employment and life skills up to the age of 24.