



Beliefs and Guiding Principles

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Division for Children, Youth and Families
Department of Health and Human Services

Prevention reduces child abuse, neglect and delinquency and promotes safety for children, youth, families and communities.

- We promote prevention services that assist families with developing social networks and concrete supports in their communities.
- We educate families and the community to promote awareness of child abuse and neglect.
- We partner with the community to develop and enhance prevention initiatives and services.



Everyone deserves to be safe.

- Parents are responsible for the safety of their children.
- We work in partnership with families and communities to keep children and youth safe.
- Ongoing safety and risk assessments are used to ensure the safety and well-being of children and youth.
- We value and consider children, youth and families voices in decisions regarding their safety.
- We remove children from their home only when necessary.

All children and youth need and deserve permanency.

- Permanency planning begins immediately and is ongoing.
- Permanency begins with the goal of maintaining children with their families,

followed by reunification, adoption, guardianship or another permanent planned living arrangement.

- It is our responsibility to identify, preserve and promote long-term connections for children and youth.
- We recognize that stability does not equal permanency.
- Concurrent planning is essential in achieving timely permanency.
- Children and youth will be matched with adoptive families that are willing to commit unconditionally.



Everyone needs and deserves a life of well-being.

- We partner with families and the community to identify and provide services for the specific needs of individual children, youth and families.
- We collaborate with families and the educational system to ensure that all children and youth receive educational and transitional opportunities to meet their specific needs.
- We prepare youth for adulthood by partnering them with their connections and community supports.
- We support opportunities for children, youth and families to have “normal” life experiences.

Everyone deserves to be treated with courtesy and respect.

- We clearly explain our purpose, role, responsibilities, concerns and decisions.



- We communicate with empathy and respect.
- We work collaboratively with children, youth, families and community resources while maintaining confidentiality.
- Children, youth and families are to be understood within the context of their own family rules, traditions, values and culture.
- We listen to children and youth and their voices are heard, valued and considered.

All children, youth and families have strengths.

- We share responsibility with the family and community to help families identify their strengths and needs.
- We recognize that families and individuals have the capacity and ability to make positive changes in their lives.
- We acknowledge that family members know the most about their own families.
- Families are best served when they are actively engaged, their voices are heard, valued and considered with regard to all decisions.



All children and youth belong with family.

- We maintain children and youth in their own home when we can do so safely.
- We explore, promote and maintain family and community connections throughout our involvement with families.
- We explore relatives and natural connections for placement and ongoing support, when children cannot be maintained in their own home.

