

A Closer Look: Child Welfare & Child Protection

Ramsey County intake and screening staff will make an immediate determination and screen into one of the categories below.
651-266-4500 (24/7 phone line)

Diversion

This is a NEW process. Child Welfare uses a team approach to provide prevention and early intervention supports or referrals for families.

If there is no child maltreatment, there is no "open CPS case." Instead, the family is referred to a voluntary Parent Support Outreach Program for short-term case management and support (help with housing, domestic abuse, transportation, employment, parenting, basic needs, and mental health services.)

Child Welfare can also facilitate kinship or voluntary placement if a caregiver is suddenly unable to provide care for a child/ children for a short period of time.



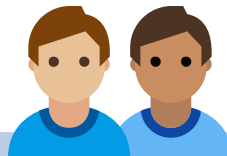
Family Assessment

Child Protection Assessment provides intervention and support for abuse or neglect concerns when there is no substantial child endangerment, sexual abuse, or egregious harm .

Examples can include;

- Marijuana use by caregiver if it affects their ability to care for the child
- Supervision concerns (minor)
- Minor physical abuse

All family assessments are assigned a 5-day response time.



Family Investigation

Child Protection Investigation provides intervention and support for serious reports of harm/neglect to children. All investigations are assigned a 24 hour or 5-day response time

Examples can include;

- Sexual abuse
- Child fatalities or near fatalities
- DWI with child in vehicle
- Significant physical abuse
- Previous termination of parental rights

If there are immediate safety threats, Child Protection may place youth in kinship care, shelter, foster home, hospital, or other inpatient care until an investigation can be completed. Typically, youth up to age 12 will first be assessed at Children's Hospital.

