



Receiving a Child Abuse/Neglect Report

Receiving a Child Abuse/Neglect Report

Information and Referral:

- ✓ Reports do not meet the criteria of the legal mandates of child welfare investigation.

Child Protective Services:

Child abuse shall mean any of the following:

- Any recent act or failure to act by a perpetrator which causes non-accidental serious physical injury to a child under 18 years old.
- An act or failure to act by a perpetrator which causes non-accidental serious mental injury to or sexual abuse or sexual exploitation of a child under 18 years old.
- Any recent act, failure to act or series of such acts or failures to act by a perpetrator which creates an imminent risk of serious physical injury to or sexual abuse or sexual exploitation of a child under 18 years of age.
- Serious physical neglect by a perpetrator constituting prolonged or repeated lack of supervision or the failure to provide the essentials of life, including adequate medical care, which endangers a child's life or development or impairs the child's functioning.

General Protective Services:

- ✓ Services provided to prevent the *potential for harm* to a child.
- ✓ Every county must provide, arrange or make available GPS services.
- ✓ The county must make available the same services for children in need of general protection as are available for abused children.
- ✓ There are no mandates regarding the reporting of a need for GPS services.

The Purpose of General Protective Services is to:

- ✓ Protect the safety, rights and welfare of children.
- ✓ Assist parents in recognizing and remedying conditions harmful to their children and in fulfilling their parental duties in a manner that does not put their children at risk.
- ✓ To prevent cases from escalating to reports of child abuse or an adjudication of dependency.