

Definition of Assessment and Investigation

- **Assessment:** A professional, systematic, and informed approach to gathering and evaluating specific information about a child and/or family for the purpose of making decisions regarding allegations of maltreatment, protection of the child, services to the family, and family progress.

Definition of Assessment and Investigation (continued)

- **Investigation:** The activities that follow the process of intake in order to assess the safety of the child, initiate the appropriate interventions with the family, make a decision of the substantiation of the report, and identify and initiate services for children and families.