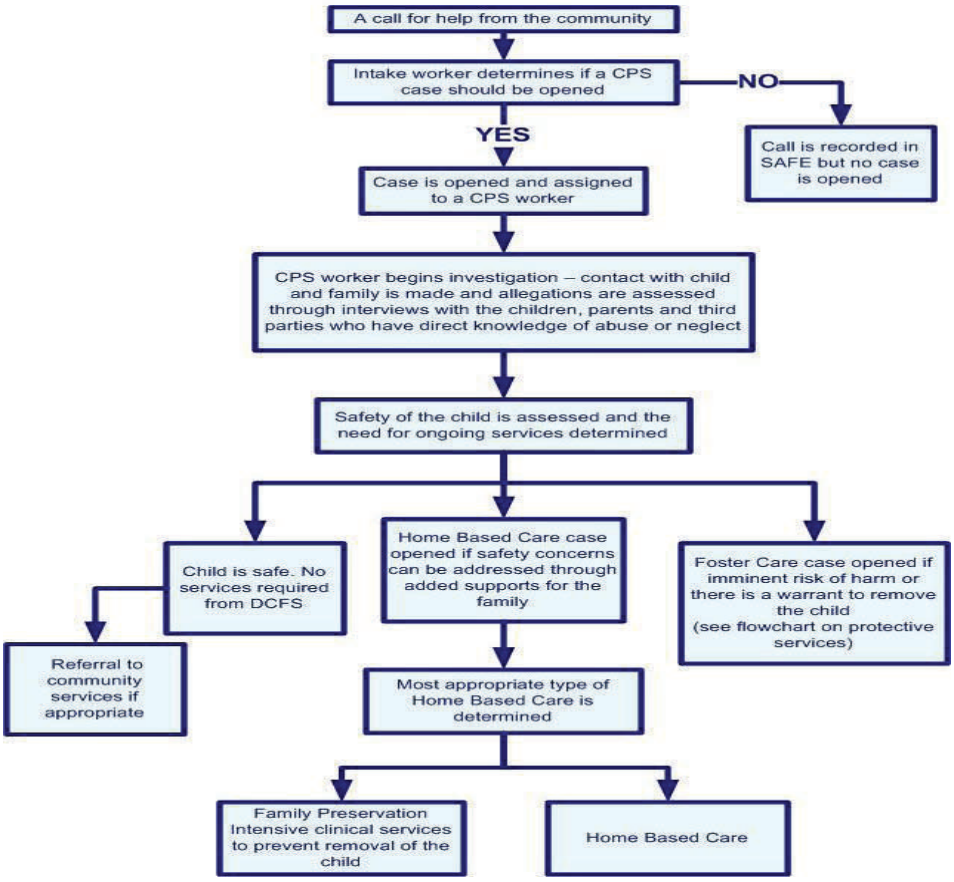
The Intake Process

Utah law requires any person, who has reason to believe that a child has been subjected to abuse, neglect or dependency, to immediately notify the nearest DCFS office, a peace officer or law enforcement agency. This notification is called a referral.

What Happens When A Referral Is Made?

Based on information gathered during the referral, the intake worker assesses the immediate risk/danger to the child and determines a "priority." The priority determines the timeframe in which DCFS will respond to the referral. Three referral priorities are considered:

Priority 1: Immediate need of protection—face-to-face contact required within 60 minutes
Priority 2: Risk of physical evidence being lost—face-to-face contact required within 24 hours
Priority 3: Low risk to child—face-to-face contact required by midnight on the 3rd working day



QUICK FACTS

- 36,837 child abuse referrals were reported
- 20,649 referrals were investigated
- 83% of referrals were categorized as a Priority 3
- 41% of the cases were substantiated/supported