

# CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

## OUR MISSION AND VISION

Our mission at Utah Child and Family Services is “Safe Children, Strengthened Families.” Our goal is to have communities where children grow up safe from abuse, neglect and dependency, where adults are protected from domestic violence, and where parents can be strengthened in their capacity to keep their family safe.

## OUR SERVICES

- Investigation of child abuse and neglect
- In-home services to keep children at risk of abuse and neglect safely with their parents
- Child abuse and neglect prevention education and outreach
- Domestic violence services – including counseling and shelters
- Foster care for children who cannot remain safely in their home
- Adoption services for children who cannot be returned to their biological parents
- Transition to Adult Living (TAL) program – designed to promote self-sufficiency for children who transition out of foster care

## CONTACT INFORMATION AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

### Utah Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) State Office and Constituent Services

801-538-4100

### 24-Hour Child Abuse Hotline

1-855-323-DCFS (3237)

### Domestic Violence Hotline

1-800-897-LINK (5465)

### Court-Appointed Child Advocates

CASA, Britany Brundage—801-574-1472, [www.utahcasa.org](http://www.utahcasa.org)

### Foster Parenting Information

Utah Foster Care Foundation—1-877-505-KIDS (5205), [www.utahfostercare.org](http://www.utahfostercare.org)

### Adoption Information

801-265-0444, [www.utdcfsadopt.org](http://www.utdcfsadopt.org)

For additional information, visit [www.dcfh.utah.gov](http://www.dcfh.utah.gov)

## Quick Facts:

- Concerns of abuse or neglect were received regarding 38,035 children
- 25,238 children were investigated as potential victims; 9,854 were found to be victims
- 9,151 children received in-home services, including home-studies
- 91% of child clients did not experience abuse or neglect for at least one year following the end of in-home services
- 4,693 children were served in foster care
- 38% of foster children were placed with a kinship caregiver at some point during the year
- 1,588 adults and 1,215 children were served by domestic violence shelters

# QUICK FACTS

- DCFS provided services to 58,516 people overall between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014.

## INTAKE AND CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

- 38,168 intake referrals were received regarding 30,385 children.
- 20,294 referrals were investigated, and 6,973 of those referrals were found to have some merit.
- The most common complaints involved child endangerment, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect.
- 81% of referrals were categorized as a Priority 3.
- 34% of the CPS cases were substantiated/supported.
- 18% of supported CPS cases were related to domestic violence

## IN-HOME SERVICES

- 17% of children with substantiated/supported cases received services in their own homes.
- 18,646 clients received in-home services, which includes 9,151 children.
- 96% of the children who received services in their own homes were still in their home a year later.
- Court-ordered supervision accounted for 57% of home-based services as of the last day of the fiscal year.
- 8 months is the average length of services for court-ordered supervision.
- Upon closure of court-ordered home-based services:
  - \* 58% of families are stabilized (stabilized and reunified);
  - \* 8% of cases resulted in adoption or placement with a relative; and,
  - \* 34% of children emancipate, need more intensive services, are referred elsewhere, etc. (all other closure reasons).

## FOSTER CARE SERVICES

- 16% of child victims with substantiated/supported cases were placed in foster care for their safety.
- 2,051 children entered foster care.
- Substance abuse was a contributing factor in 66% of children placed in foster care.
- Neglect accounted for 43% of children served in custody.
- Substance abuse was a contributing factor in 66% of new foster care cases.
- 2,768 children were in state custody on the last day of the fiscal year.
- 38% of children served in foster care were in a kinship placement for some of the time they were in care.
- Custody was awarded to relatives in 17% of cases of children leaving foster care.
- The median length of stay in foster care for children exiting is 12 months.
- 52% of children entering foster care exited within 12 months, 53% of these children were reunified.
- All children in state custody have a nurse assigned to them.
- Adoption occurs approximately 8 months after termination of parental rights.
- Transition to Adult Living services were provided to 36% of foster children.
- 2,803 victims of domestic violence, which includes 1,215 children, were served by domestic violence shelters.

## DCFS CASEWORKERS

- 1,106 people work for DCFS.
- The average caseworker has over 9.5 years experience.
- The annual starting salary of a caseworker is \$30,805.