

Other Services We Offer

- ◆ Kinship services for relatives and non-relatives caring for children other than their own
- ◆ Free parenting classes to provide parents with new tools and strategies to handle everyday parenting issues
- ◆ Free anger management classes for adults and teens to provide strategies for dealing with stressors that lead to feelings of anger
- ◆ Summer Foods program to provide breakfast and lunch to children at various sites throughout the county
- ◆ Child abuse and neglect training for educators and daycare providers
- ◆ Community education and awareness regarding child abuse and neglect



To Report Suspected
Child Abuse and/or
Neglect Call:

440-998-1811

M-F 8:00am-5:00pm

or

1-888-998-1811

Toll Free Emergency Hotline

24 hrs. / 7 days per week



Ashtabula County
Children Services
Board

**Child Abuse
is
Preventable**



3914 C Court
P.O. Box 1175
Ashtabula, OH 44005-1175
Ph. 440-998-1811 or 1-888-998-1811
Fax 440-992-6828
www.help-a-child.com



Our Mission

Our mission is to assure that children at risk of abuse and neglect are protected and nurtured within a family and with the support of our community.

What We Do

- ◆ We are mandated by law to investigate alleged incidents of child abuse and neglect
- ◆ We provide substitute care for children when it becomes unsafe for them to remain with their caregivers
- ◆ We provide case management services to families to help them safely maintain their children in their homes or to help them reduce safety concerns so that their children can return to their homes
- ◆ We provide foster care and adoption services to families who wish to become licensed foster and /or adoptive parents
- ◆ We finalize adoptions for children who cannot return to their biological parents

What To Do If You Suspect Child Abuse and Neglect

- ◆ Referrals should be made to Children Services if you *SUSPECT* a child is being abused or neglected—you do not need proof, your suspicion is enough
- ◆ Referrals are made by contacting Children Services at 998-1811 and speaking to a Screening Caseworker; for after-hour emergencies, contact our 24hr. Hotline at 1-888-998-1811 and follow the instructions
- ◆ Our Screeners will listen to your concerns and ask you questions to determine if there is a safety risk to the child—we are held to state guidelines when we make this determination
- ◆ In most cases where intervention is necessary, children are able to safely remain in their own homes; however, when alternative living arrangements must be made to keep a child safe, relatives are always considered before placements are made in foster homes

FAQ

Do I have to give my name when I make a referral to Children Services? No. You DO NOT have to give us your name and we are NOT permitted to give your name to the family you are calling about. However, we are mandated to tell the family what the concerns are about and depending on the circumstances, it may be possible for them to figure out who called the agency.

If a child is removed from their home, do they ever get to go back? Yes. In most cases, children are able to return home. Services are offered to families to assist them in reducing safety concerns so that their children can be returned as quickly as possible.

Do we have enough Foster Homes in Ash-tabula County? No. We can always use more foster homes. When it is necessary for a child to be placed in foster care, we carefully consider the needs of that particular child and match them with the strengths of a particular family—each child and each family are unique so the more families we have to work with the better!

Is it difficult to become a foster or adoptive parent? No, but there is a process to becoming licensed. Prospective parents must complete Pre-Service training hours and have an approved home study and criminal background check. For more information contact our Foster Care/Adoption team at 440-998-1811.