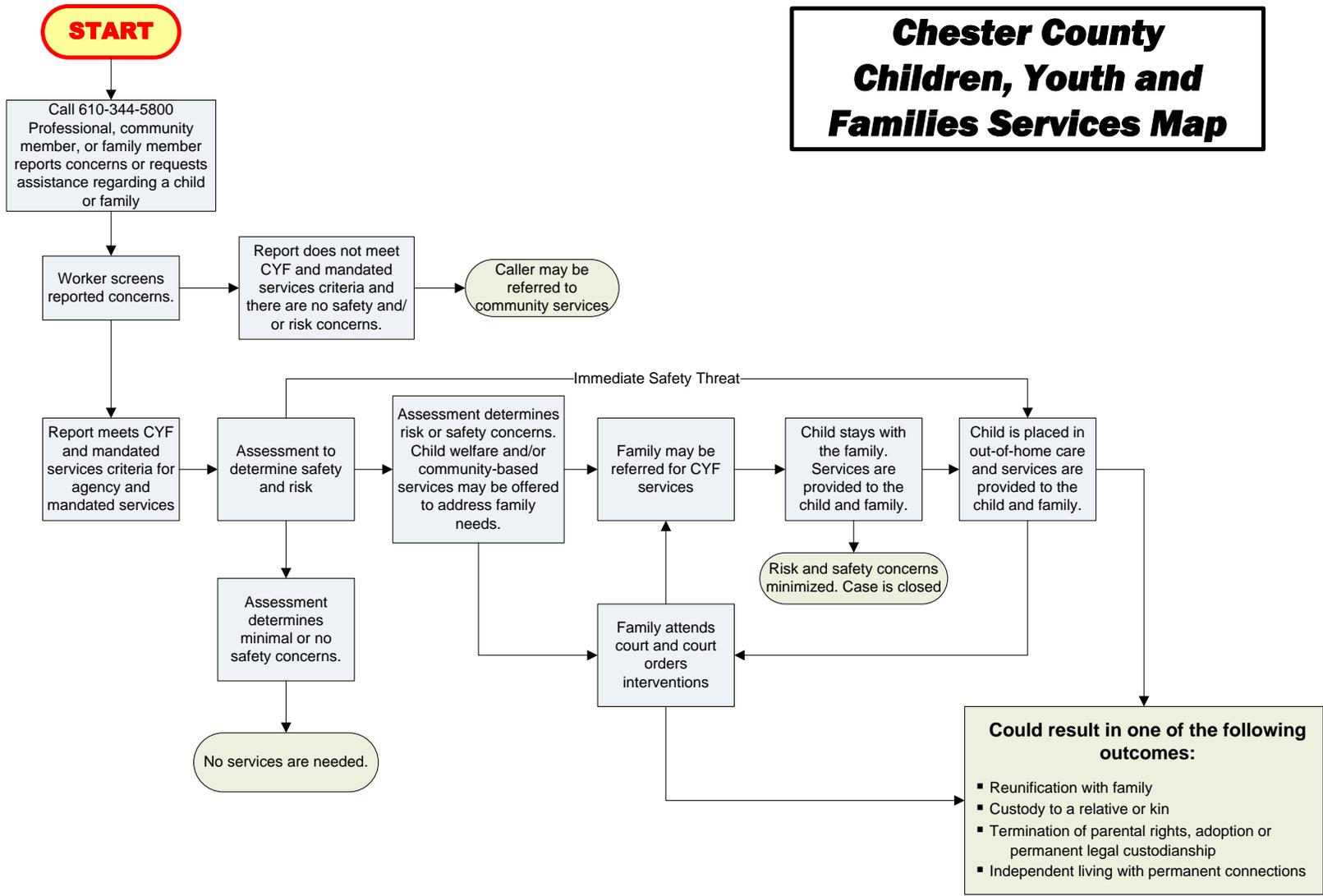


Chester County Children, Youth and Families Services Map



Check <http://www.referweb.net/chesco/> for additional resources in Chester County.

Maps of other Chester County systems can be found at <http://chesco.org/DocumentCenter/View/19237>

PLEASE NOTE: This information could change. Updated versions are available at <http://chesco.org/DocumentCenter/View/19243>

Chester County Department of Children, Youth and Families

Why DCYF May Be Involved With Your Family

The Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) works with families that are having a difficult time providing a safe and nurturing environment for their children. DCYF is the agency designated by state law to look into allegations of child abuse and neglect. DCYF receives referrals from friends, family, neighbors and others; the agency also receives referrals from parents themselves. DCYF assigns a Caseworker to look into the allegations and to decide if DCYF can help. By law, the agency will offer services to families when:

- parents are not able to care for children and no other responsible adult is available;
- children have been injured, abused, or sexually molested by their parents or caretakers;
- children are not adequately cared for or supervised;
- in certain situations, when parents need help with their problems or their children's problems.

Services

The services your Caseworker will talk to you about will depend on what your family needs, what you ask for, or what a Judge might order. Sometimes services are provided by DCYF. Sometimes DCYF will refer you to services provided by another agency or program.

You may request and/or be asked to go to the following in order to assess your needs or to strengthen your family:

- psychological assessments (to assess parent and child relationships)
- parenting classes
- counseling and therapy
- self-help or support groups
- job training
- drug and alcohol rehabilitation
- counseling in homemaking and home budgeting

Keeping Families Together

The agency's preference is to keep families together. If your children can live with you and be safe, they will stay with you. Most families who are involved with DCYF continue to live together under the same roof. While parents continue to parent, they are also receiving services from the agency. A Caseworker will meet with family members in the home to assist the family in working through problems. The frequency of home visits will be decided by the parents and the Caseworker.

If adults and children cannot live together safely, DCYF will provide a safe, temporary home for the children. This "out-of-home" placement may be with relatives. It may be with a foster family. Less often, it is in a group home or a residential center.

Definitions

Child Abuse Report – the written report of a child’s alleged abuse. DCYF can decide that child abuse is *indicated* (i.e., likely that it occurred), or DCYF can decide that a report is *unfounded* (i.e., abuse cannot be proven). If at least one incident was proven to a court’s satisfaction, the case is *founded*.

Court Order – a legally-binding document stating a Judge’s instructions or directions. (All court orders must be followed by all parties.)

Foster Care – a child’s temporary home and care provided by a trained caretaker.

Kinship Placement – a child’s temporary home with a relative or friend of the family.

Out-of-home Placement – a temporary home for a child who, for safety reasons, must live away from parent(s).

Termination of parental rights (TPR) – a legally-binding court decision made by a Judge in court. TPR ends all parental rights of birth parents.