



# Child Protective Services

Child Protective Services (CPS) in Virginia is a continuum of specialized services designed to assist families who are unable to safely care for their children. It encompasses the *identification*, *assessment*, *investigation*, and *treatment* of abused or neglected children.\*

A report of suspected maltreatment is not an accusation. It is a request for the helping process to begin. \*

## Responsibilities of Mandated Reporters:

- \* Identify children who may be abused or neglected
- \* Report concerns of suspected child abuse or neglect within 24 hours.

**\* Failure to Report could result in fiscal or criminal penalties. \***

## Civil and Criminal Immunity \*

Section 63.2-1512 of the Code of Virginia protects a person, who either makes a CPS report or participates in a court hearing that results from a CPS report, from criminal and civil liability unless it is proven that the person acted with malicious intent.

## Confidentiality of Reporter:

Code of Virginia protects the confidentiality of the identity of the reporter.

In some instances, despite the child protective services worker's efforts to maintain confidentiality, a family may be able to identify the mandated reporter. In addition, if the case is brought to court, the identity of the mandated reporter may be re-vealed during court proceedings.\*

**It is better to make your concerns known than to remain silent and possibly allow a child to remain unprotected.**



For more information:

[VDSS Guide to Mandated Reporting](#)