

We know this can be a confusing and scary process. We would like to explain this to you and answer any questions you may have.



We Can help:

- Explain your rights to you
- Find resources to help your family
- Walk with you though this process
- Provide legal representation



**Madison County
Assigned Counsel
Family Defense Unit**

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**Madison County
Assigned Counsel
Family Defense Unit**



**ASSIGNED COUNSEL
PROGRAM FREE
ATTORNEY HOTLINE:**

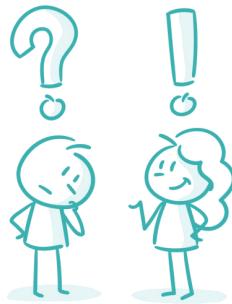
(315) 884-7542

Attorneys are available 24/7

Attorneys will advocate for you, provide FREE Case resources, legal advice, and support services

Are You Being Investigated by CPS?

The Family Defense Unit (FDU) of the Assigned Counsel Program of Madison County may be able to advocate for you.



If investigated by CPS, you are eligible for:

- Attorney Defense Services
- An independent caseworker to directly aid in the resolution of your case

To immediately speak with an attorney regarding your investigation:

CALL 315-884-7542



- ◆ *You have the right* to speak to an Attorney **before** talking to a CPS caseworker.
- ◆ *You have the right* to know the specific allegations.
- ◆ *You have the right* to refuse mental health or drug test evaluations without a Court Order.
- ◆ *You have the right* to refuse to have CPS question your children without a Court Order.
- ◆ *You have the right* to refuse services recommended by CPS.

What happens during a CPS Investigation?

A CPS worker will try to contact you to discuss the complaint by coming to your home or by phone.



They may call people you know including family members, doctors or teachers.

They may also ask your neighbors for information.

CPS may try to speak with your child at school. CPS will continue to do this until they are satisfied that no abuse or neglect has taken place.

They may take additional steps including possible court action.

Throughout the investigation, we can provide you with an attorney and support services.

