



## Butler County Children Services

*Protecting Children, Strengthening  
Families, Partnering with the Community*

Presenters:

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## Organizational Values & Goals

**OUTCOMES**

Safety  
Permanency  
Well-being

**Values – Our Purpose**

**Trauma Informed:** Recognizing that child welfare involvement and removals contribute to trauma.

**Advocacy & Engagement:** Emphasizing that children heal in the context of relationships, not systems.

**Collaborative & Strength-Based:** Empowering youth to reach their full potential and partnering with families for impactful change.

**Family & Child Centered:** Highlighting the importance of family and child voices in the healing and growth process.

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### Goals

- Maintain children in their own home safely.
- Increase kinship connections, support, and placements.
- Decrease congregate care.
- Ensure timely and stable permanency.
- Increase youth participation in workforce development programs to prepare for independence and career training upon graduation.

### Strategies

**Timely, Meaningful, and Engaging Services:** Proactively deliver services that promote change and effectively addresses safety, reduce risk and enhance well-being.

**Utilizing Kinship Resources:** Ensuring continuity and life-long connection through kinship placements and lasting relationships.

**Foster Care Recruitment:** Increasing the number of resource families through recruitment efforts and boost relational engagement with idle families for greater participation.

**Workforce Development and Independent Living Education:** Preparing youth for sustainable independence through education and training programs.

**Regular Training Needs Assessment:** Continuously assessing and addressing training needs of staff to provide development opportunities and support through regular supervision.

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### When to call and types of abuse

**Physical Abuse** - Non-accidental injury to a child.  
- Includes Corporal Punishment and Domestic Violence

**Neglect** - Child who lacks adequate care because of the faults or habits of the custodian  
- Physical, medical, educational

**Emotional Maltreatment** - Chronic acts which interfere with the psychological and/or social development of a child.

**Sexual Abuse** - Any sexual activity upon or with a child.

**Dependency** - Child lacks care by reason of mental or physical disability.

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### Mandated Reporter Statute Ohio Revised Code 2151.421

- Requires certain individuals who are acting in a professional or official capacity to immediately report child abuse or neglect. (Note: if you hold a professional license this varies)
- Creates immunity from being sued for the person who reports child abuse or neglect.
- Allows the person who reports the abuse or neglect to follow-up and get certain information after the report is made.

As mandated reporters, we not only have legal duties, but also a role in helping prevent trauma and support healing. It's important to recognize abuse and understand how removals affect children and their families emotionally

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### Making A Report To BCCS

- Child is less than 18 years old or the individual is a physically or mentally impaired person under 21 years.
- You should report immediately upon suspecting or having knowledge of child abuse or neglect.
- YOU CAN NOT BE ANONYMOUS
- When you suspect abuse or neglect, it is not your responsibility to judge whether the abuse or neglect is happening. It is the responsibility of BCCS to investigate and determine if it is abuse or neglect.

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### Making A Report To BCCS

To make a new report of abuse or neglect:

- Call 513-887-4055
- Online: <https://odjfs.force.com/teamohio>

Information Needed to Report

- Child's Name
- Child's Date of Birth/Age
- Child's Address in Butler County, Ohio
- Parent/Custodian's Name
- Parent/Custodian's Phone Number
- Other Household Members
- Delays/Diagnosis/Disabilities of Child
- Current Concern (Why you are calling today?):

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### Details are important

Screeners will ask a variety of other questions to assess safety for the child and for the worker who may be entering the home. We actively type everything you report. Please be patient, we need to gather as much information as possible.

\*\*\*Please report as soon as possible. It may be necessary for BCCS to send a worker to see a child before the child returns to a dangerous situation.

Thank you for taking the time to report your concerns, and for assisting to keep the children of Butler County safe.

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### What cases get opened?

Ohio has 88 Counties which the state sets forth guidelines to determine what a county may screen in for investigation or screen out.

Butler Co. Utilizes Group Decision Making in screening decisions

The Ohio Screening Guidelines are the primary source for decision making

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### When Does BCCS Respond?

- The Ohio Revised Code mandates the agency to respond to screened in reports of abuse and neglect.
- There are timeframes associated with the type of report that is screened in for investigation. Priority 1 or 3.
- Most reports require a 24 hour response time. Emergencies require BCCS to respond within 1 hour. These are exclusive to a "police removal."
- The law is clear about how BCCS conducts investigations.
- Hours of operation for BCCS

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### What Happens Next?

- Information is not accepted as a new report (screen out)
- Information is screened in for an investigation
- Mandated reporter letter
- Case is assigned to Intervention, Permanency, or Special Investigations Unit

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