



Maryland

Department of Human Services
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Life Cycle of a Suspected Child Maltreatment Report

Phase 1: Reporting Suspected Maltreatment

The Reporter immediately notifies LDSS or LEA by any available means

Oral Report

Call the CPS Hotline @
1-800-91PREVENT

Written Report (Mandated Reporters)

Report must also be submitted to LDSS w/in 48 hours of oral report

Phase 2: Screening Decision by LDSS

Screen Out & Report Closed

Insufficient information, no current risk or no maltreatment

Phase 3: Accepted Report & Possible Pathways

Investigative Response

Moderate / High Risk
Child is seen within 24 hr/5d. Case closed within 60 days.

Alternative Response

Low Risk / Safety Concern Family is seen within 24 hr/5d.
Case closed within 60 days.

ROH/Service Case

Specific Concerns
Family is seen within 5 days. Case closed within 30 days.

Key:

LDSS: Local Dept of Social Services

LEA: Law Enforcement

CPS: Child Protective Svcs

ROH: Risk of Harm

*Note on Confidentiality:

Following the report, the mandated reporter's legal duty ends and the outcome is private to protect due process and privacy rights.

All cases involve collaborative assessments and referrals when appropriate. The case may also be referred to Family Preservation Services or closed if no further needs are identified.