

What is the Purpose of an Investigation?

During an investigation, decisions are made about the following questions:

1. Is the child safe?
2. Is the child being maltreated?
3. Is the child at risk of being maltreated?
4. What actions need to be taken during an investigation?
5. Does the family need services?

What Happens During an Investigation?

The following case activities will occur as part of the investigation process:

- All adults in the home with caretaking responsibility for the children must be interviewed.
- A parent not residing in the home who has contact with the child victim must also be interviewed.
- Any adult caretaker who may be responsible for allegedly harming the child will also be interviewed.
- All children in the home will be interviewed and/or observed if non-verbal.
- Contact other professionals such as school and medical personnel, day-care providers, and law enforcement officers; and
- Assesses if substance abuse or domestic violence are present in the household.

How Long Does an Investigation Take?

Although each investigation is different, generally an investigation will be completed within 45 calendar days.

What are the Possible Outcomes of an Investigation?

The Division is required to make two decisions at the conclusion of its investigation;

- Determine if there is a preponderance of evidence (standard of proof = 50% or greater) to substantiate and;
- Determine if continued (Treatment) services are necessary for your family.

Services may also be provided if the Division determines a child is at risk of being abused or neglected. When a case remains open for continued services, it is transferred to a Treatment caseworker.