



# ARE YOU BEING INVESTIGATED BY CPS?

## ALBANY COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE FAMILY DEFENSE UNIT

The Family Defense Unit (FDU) of the Public Defender's Office may be able to advocate for you. Call now to discuss your rights.

### IF YOU ARE BEING INVESTIGATED BY CPS, YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO:

- Speak to an attorney before talking to a CPS case worker
- Know what specific allegations are against you
- Not answer questions unrelated to the allegations (if you do decide to talk to CPS)
- Deny CPS caseworkers entry into your home—but that won't stop the investigation. In some instances, CPS may apply to the Court for an "access order" allowing CPS with police assistance to enter your home
- Decline consent for CPS to interview children—but CPS may interview children at another location, such as school or day care, without the parent's permission
- Decline consent to a drug test, drug evaluation or mental health evaluation
- Decline to sign releases or consent forms allowing CPS to have access to confidential information.



### 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 even ask your neighbors for information.

If CPS can't reach you, they will 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.

Additional steps will be taken if CPS does find evidence of abuse or neglect. This could result in possible court action.

### ALBANY COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE

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