

- Home
- Adoption
- Child Protective
- Ongoing Children's
- Adult Protective
- Home Management
- Immediate Need

JEFFERSON CO. DSS SERVICES PROGRAMS



"Jefferson Co. DSS empowers individuals and families to be safe, healthy, and financially secure through compassionate, efficient delivery of services."

Office Hours:
Monday-Friday
9:00am-5:00pm

(July and August-
8:30am-4:00pm)

Non-Parent Caregiver?

Non-parent caregivers (Grandparents, Other Relatives, Friends), who are caring for children without a parent living in their home, may be eligible for Temporary Assistance.

Temporary Assistance for children not living with a parent is often referred to as "non-parent caregiver" or "child-only" grants, and includes Medical Assistance (MA).

Non-parent caregivers may apply for temporary assistance at their local social services office.

Click here for more information:

www.nysnavigator.org - The NYS Kinship Navigator's website

Children's Services: Through direct provision, purchase or referral, offers a range of services to enhance the preservation of family life. Services available include Child Protective, Preventive, Foster Care, and Adoption.

Adult Services: Provides assistance to adults to maintain themselves safely at home, or when necessary, arrange for suitable out-of-home placement. Services provided include personal care, housing assistance, transportation and financial management.



Other Resources

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children-**1-800-THE-LOST**

<http://www.missingkids.com/>

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County-[Parenting help/ideas](#)

www.ccejefferson.org

North Country Prenatal Perinatal Council-[Directory of Available Services](#)

<http://directory.ncppc.org/>

[Domestic Violence](#)-Victims Assistance Center of Jefferson County

www.vacjc.com

Do You Suspect Child Abuse or Maltreatment? Report it Now!

Call the Statewide Toll Free Telephone Number:
1-800-342-3720

If you are deaf or hard of hearing, call TDD/TTY at
1-800-638-5163
or

have your Video Relay System provider call
1-800-342-3720

If you believe that a child is in **immediate danger**, call **911** or your local police department.

**Jefferson Co.
DSS**

**250 Arsenal St.
Watertown NY
13601**

315-785-3000



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A D O P T I O N S E R V I C E S

Adoption is a method provided by law that creates the legal relationship of parent and child. After an adoption is finalized, the adoptive parent assumes all the rights and responsibilities for the child that the birth parent would have. Also, the adopted child has the same rights and responsibilities as would any child born to the adoptive parents.

When a child is in foster care, decisions must be made regarding the long-range permanency plan for the child. If the social services district decides that it would not be in the child's best interests to return home and that the child should be adopted, steps must be taken to legally free the child for adoption.

The majority of adoptions in Jefferson County are by Foster Parents adopting the foster children in their home.

Please **click** on the link below for more information on how to become a Foster/Adoption Parent in Jefferson County:

Foster Parent Website: [Foster Parent Website](#) or call 315-785-3337 for more information.

The adoption process involves two major procedures. **First**, the foster parent who wants to adopt his or her foster child must go through the agency approval process. **Next**, the person must start a court proceeding asking a judge to **finalize**—that is, complete—the adoption to make it legal.

Click on the link below for "The Foster Parent's Guide To Adoption" for more information about the adoption process:

<http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/publications/Pub5033.pdf>

Many children are already freed for adoption and are waiting for a forever family.

Click on the picture to access the [Adoption Album and the NYS Adoption Services](#):



We encourage you to use the OCFS website to learn more about the process of adoption in New York State. We trust you will find it an informative and useful guide as you make this most important decision to parent a child.

When you adopt a waiting child, you will be giving that child a permanent family and another chance in life.

All children deserve a loving, committed, safe, and permanent family.

Adoption Links

www.adoption.com

adoptuskids.org

National photo listing service for children awaiting **adoption** across the United States.

Safe Sleep

http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/cps/infant_sleeping.asp



Post Adoption Services

For more information, go to the Children's Home of Jefferson County website at:

www.nnychildrenshome.com

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CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

The abuse or maltreatment of children is against the law.

Child Protective Services is the only government entity that is required to investigate child abuse and maltreatment reports within families to protect children (under 18 years old) from further abuse or maltreatment and to provide rehabilitative services to children, parents, and other family members involved.

Reports of child abuse and maltreatment are called into the New York State Central Registry (SCR), also known as the Hotline and then the Hotline relays the information from the calls to the local Child Protective Services unit for investigation.

The Hotline receives calls 24 hours a day, seven days a week – even on holidays.

After the local Child Protective Services unit receives the report from the Hotline, it initiates an investigation within 24 hours to assess the immediate safety of the child(ren) and then to examine the allegations of maltreatment in each report.

The investigation of a report is a fact-finding process that includes interviewing, observing, and information gathering. The investigation includes an evaluation of all children in the home, whether or not they are actually named in the report. The purpose of the investigation is to initially protect the child(ren) and then to evaluate for any condition that increases the risk of future abuse.

Child Protective Services also determines if any services are necessary to ensure the safety of the child(ren) or to reduce the degree of future risk to the child (ren). In cases where neglect or abuse exists, Child Protective Services provides or arranges for services to ensure the children's safety and/or to decrease the risk of future abuse.

Child Protective Services works to preserve and stabilize family life whenever possible.

For more information, go to the NYS Child Protective Services Site:

<http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/cps/>

If you suspect that a child under age 18 is being abused, neglected, or maltreated, then call the **Hotline at 1-800-342-3720.**



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NEVER SHAKE A BABY!

A baby has weak neck muscles and a large, heavy head.

Shaking makes the fragile brain bounce back and forth inside the skull and causes bruising, swelling, and bleeding, which **can lead to permanent, severe brain damage or death.**

Children who survive may have:

- partial or total blindness
- hearing loss
- seizures
- developmental delays
- impaired intellect
- speech and learning difficulties
- problems with memory and attention

For More Info:

National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome:

www.dontshake.com

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ONGOING CHILDREN'S SERVICES



Foster Care

Our foster care system addresses the needs of children who are placed in the care and custody of the county Commissioner of Social Services pursuant to court action relative to child abuse or maltreatment, juvenile delinquency, or persons in need of supervision.

Foster and adoptive parents are special people who open their hearts and homes to children in our community who can no longer stay with their families for a variety of reasons. Our foster homes are a temporary placement and last resort after trying all other options to assure the child's safety.

Preventive Services

Preventive services are designed to strengthen the family's ability to function more effectively and independently in order to prevent family breakup and to reunite as soon as possible if a breakup is necessary.

The foundation is the belief that the family is, and should continue to be, the central structure around which a caring and self-sufficient society must be built. The family is the best environment for raising children and caring for vulnerable members. Accordingly, the family must be able to provide the necessary nurture, protection, shelter, and education for its members.

For these services, a family means an adult(s) and children under age 18 related by blood, marriage, adoption, or an expression of kinship who function as a family unit.

Preventive Services are supportive and rehabilitative services provided to children and their families for averting out-of-home placement of the child. These services enable a child placed in foster care to return home or reduce the likelihood that a child who has been discharged from foster care will return to foster care.

PINS (Person in Need of Supervision)

Each county in New York State must designate a lead agency for PINS diversion services. The law addresses the need for early and effective interventions of alleged PINS youths. It also discourages the placement of PINS youths by requiring local governments and courts to exhaust all community-based preventive alternatives before PINS petitions may be filed. The new law puts responsibility on the parents to also show diligent efforts to stabilize their own family situations through support and linkage to these community-based preventive agencies.

PINS (Person in Need of Supervision) Diversion is a short-term and voluntary program. A youth may qualify if he/she is exhibiting one or all of the following: truancy, drug and alcohol use, or incorrigible and ungovernable behaviors.

Parents, law enforcement, or school officials may refer to PINS diversion services.

If the youth has not shown an improvement in the behaviors identified once services are attempted and all options are exhausted, the youth may be referred to the Jefferson County Family Court Judge for intervention.



Independent Living Services

The Independent Living Services are available to all teens in foster care from the age of 14 years to 21. This is accomplished through intensive casework and participation in group activities.

The teens have an opportunity to discover what it is like to take responsibility for themselves and are instructed in strategies designed to assist them with life on their own as adults.

Jefferson County Probation Department

<http://co.jefferson.ny.us/>

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SERVICES FOR ADULTS



Protective Services for Adults

Protective services for adults (PSA) are provided to assist people 18 years or older whose physical or mental impairments prevent them from meeting their basic needs for food, clothing, shelter or medical care, and are unable to protect themselves from neglect, abuse, or dangerous situations.

One of the primary goals of Protective Services for Adults is the provision of services that maximize an individual's independence, freedom and decision-making ability. The least restrictive interventions should begin with those interventions that are voluntary.

PSA clients are often among the most debilitated and neglected members of the community: the frail elderly, the mentally ill, the developmentally disabled and/or drug/alcohol dependent.

ELIGIBILITY

Eighteen years or older with all three of the following characteristics:

- A mental or physical disability
- The individual is at risk of harm either by his/her own or others' actions **and**
- The individual has no one willing or able to responsibly assist.

RIGHTS OF AN INDIVIDUAL REFERRED FOR PROTECTIVE SERVICES FOR ADULTS

Adults have the right to make their own decisions. They may choose to accept or refuse the services APS offers. In cases of extreme risk or diminished capacity to make decisions due to physical or mental disorders, APS may intervene against the person's will to protect the individual.

Click on the links below for more information:

New York State Office of Children and Family Services

<http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/psa/>

Alzheimer's Association-<http://www.alz.org/index.asp>

To report adult abuse, call (within New York State only): **1-800-342-3009 (Press Option 6)** or contact **Jefferson Co. DSS at 315-785-3210.**

If an adult is in **danger** and **needs immediate assistance** you should call **911.**



CLICK [HERE](#) FOR A DIRECT LINK



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*Protect People
with
Special Needs*

If you see or suspect abuse or neglect, call the toll-free
Vulnerable Persons
Central Register
Hotline
1-855-373-2122
24/7

[Learn More](#)

Other Links:

Medicare

[http://
www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)

Social Security

[http://
www.socialsecurity
.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov)

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H O M E M A N A G E M E N T



The Home Management Unit at the Jefferson County Department of Social Services is responsible for authorizing personal care services to Medicaid eligible individuals who require in home assistance with housekeeping.

Services provided include housekeeping chores, errands, laundry, meal preparation.

Services are authorized after a physician indicates the services are medically necessary, and a nursing and social assessment indicates the services are appropriate to meet the client's needs. Services are provided by home health care agencies or individuals through the Consumer Directed Personal Assistant Program.

The Home Management Unit also oversees Family Type Homes operated in Jefferson County, and the Care At Home Program.

For information pertaining to any of these programs call the Home Management Unit at (315) 785-5037.



To download the Jefferson Co. Public Health Nursing Services Home Health Care brochure click [here](#).



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IMMEDIATE NEED FOR PERSONAL CARE SERVICES

If you think you have an immediate need for Personal Care Services (PCS) or Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Services (CDPAS), such as housekeeping, meal preparation, bathing, or toileting, your eligibility for these services may be processed more quickly if you meet the following conditions:

- ♦ You have no informal caregivers available, able and willing to provide or continue to provide care;
- ♦ You are not receiving needed help from a home care services agency;
- ♦ You have no adaptive or specialized equipment or supplies in use to meet your needs; and
- ♦ You have no third party insurance or Medicare benefits available to pay for needed help.

If you don't already have Medicaid coverage, and you meet the above conditions, you may ask to have your Medicaid application processed more quickly by sending in: a completed Access NY Health Insurance Application (DOH-4220); the Access NY Supplement A (DOH-4495A or DOH-5178A), if needed; a physician's order for services; and a signed **"Attestation of Immediate Need."**

If you already have Medicaid coverage that does not include coverage for community-based long term care services, you must send in a completed Access NY Supplement A (DOH-4495A or DOH-5178A), a physician's order for services and a signed **"Attestation of Immediate Need."**

If you already have Medicaid coverage that includes coverage for community-based long term care services, you must send in a physician's order for services and a signed **"Attestation of Immediate Need."**

[Attestation of Immediate Need](#)

[DOH-4220](#)

[DOH-4495a](#)

[DOH-5178a](#)

[Physician's Order](#)