CHANGE COLLECTIVE KY

KENTUCKY • INDEPENDENT • PARENT-LED

CPS Knocked on Your Door. Now what?

A simple Kentucky guide for the first few minutes and first 24 hours.

You deserve clear information, dignity, and support.

General information only. Not legal advice.

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Start Here

First few minutes

1. Stay calm and take a breath.
2. Ask for the worker's name, office, and phone number.
3. Ask why they are there and whether this is an investigation or an assessment.
4. Write down the date, time, and who is present.

You can be respectful and still ask questions.

General information only. Not legal advice.

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Questions to Ask

- Can I see your identification?
- What are the general concerns you need to address today?
- Are you asking to come in? Do you have a court order?
- Who do you need to speak with today?
- What happens next, and when will I hear from you again?
- If you want me to sign something, may I read it fully and get a copy?

Slow it down. Ask for clarity.

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Important Kentucky Facts

1. DCBS may make an unannounced home visit when a report requires a visit.
2. If a parent or caretaker refuses entry or refuses to allow a child interview, DCBS may ask law enforcement for help or seek a court order.
3. Schools and child-care providers may give DCBS access to a child during an investigation without parental consent.
4. DCBS says safety plans are voluntary and should be negotiated and agreed upon with the family.

Knowing the process can help you respond more calmly.

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After the Visit

First 24 hours

- Write down what happened as soon as you can.
- Save business cards, papers, texts, and voicemails.
- If a safety plan is proposed, read it carefully, ask questions, and keep a copy.
- Reach out to an attorney, trusted support person, or advocate if you need help.
- If your child is in immediate danger, focus on safety and call 911.

You do not have to do this alone.

Life After CPS (KY)

bit.ly/LifeAfterCPSKY

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Life After CPS (KY)

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A welcoming virtual drop-in space for Kentucky parents and caregivers impacted by CPS involvement.

Come as you are.