

DCS Specialist Position Description

The DCS Specialist position provides case management services to a diverse population and is responsible for a series of decisions about the safety, well-being and permanency of children who are identified as victims of child maltreatment within their family. The functions of the case manager focus on two phases of child welfare: the investigation of safety and risk factors in a family on behalf of a child or sibling group and the ongoing case management of children from such families where the agency has established the need for prevention and/or intervention services.

In all phases of DCS work, the case manager is required to balance the safety of the child(ren) with preservation of the family. Culturally sensitive, strength based, family centered practice with community and kinship collaboration is valued and supported by the agency. The case manager works closely with the family to identify strengths and challenges and, together with the family and a community of providers, develops a case plan with a goal of preserving or reunifying the family which can provide a safe environment for the child(ren).

Duties of a case manager include conducting interviews and collecting information about allegations of child abuse; working with forensic experts to establish the likelihood of abuse and future risk; developing child safety plans; identifying alternative living arrangements for children; collaborating with extended family members to develop resources for children; preparing documentation in compliance with state and federal guidelines; working closely with the State Attorney General's office and the juvenile court on all phases of cases where a dependency petition has been filed; preparing reports and testifying; monitoring, motivating and evaluating the efforts of clients to achieve case plan goals; developing professional relationships with family members, children and other team members to accurately assess the outcome of services provided; developing and implementing transition plans for children to return home, to permanent guardianship, adoptive home or independent living; and monitoring the well being of the child assigned to their case load in all domains at all times.