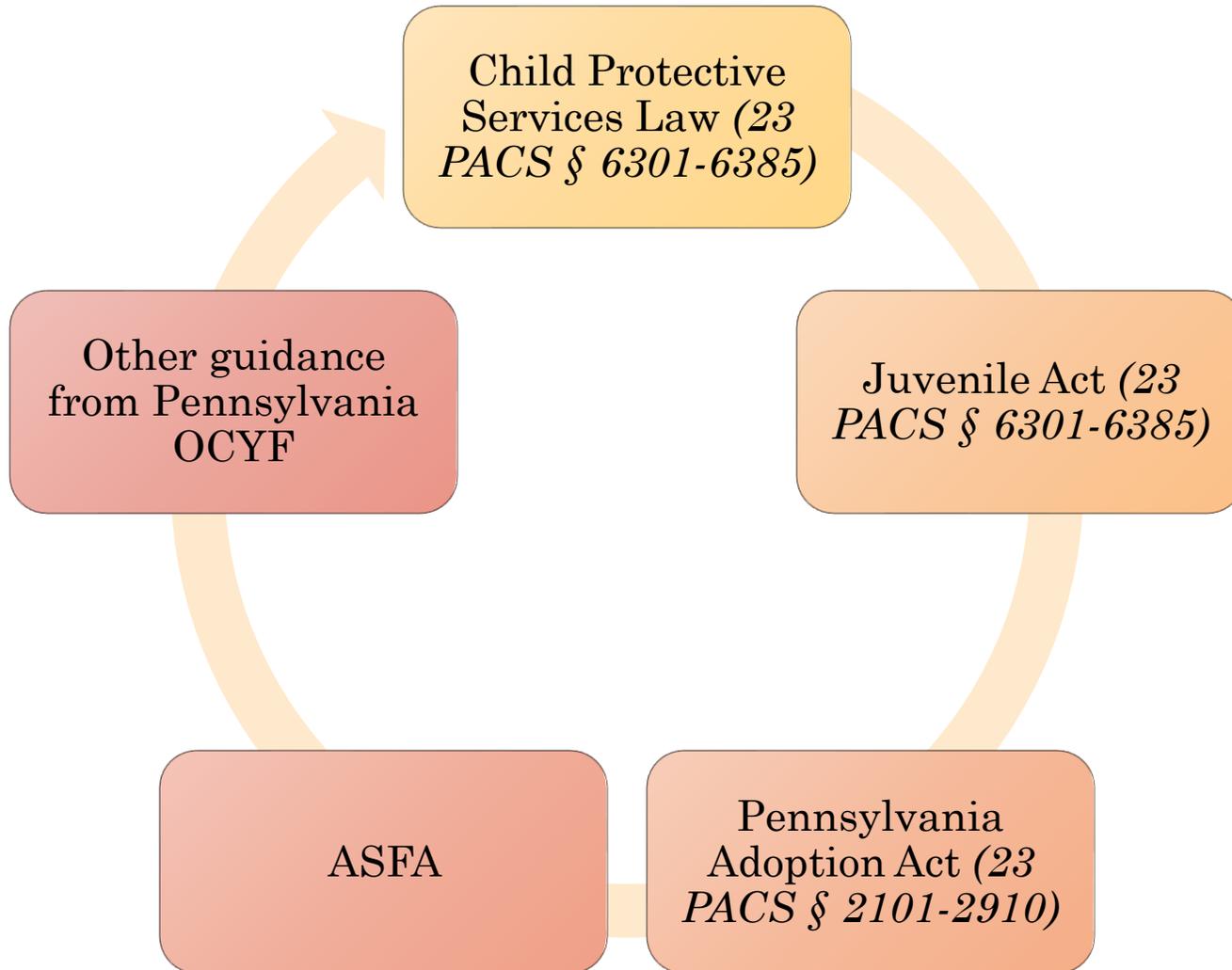


Children, Youth and Families Overview

Allegheny County
Department of Human Services (DHS)
Office of Children, Youth and Families (CYF)



Pennsylvania Mandates



Mission and Guiding Principles

1

To protect children from abuse and neglect

2

To preserve families whenever possible

3

To assure that children have permanent and safe homes

On any given day...

4,308 children (2,001) were receiving services as of October 4, 2019

1,538 of these children were in out of home placement, 1,421

2/3 of those children were placed with kin

CYF logged 16,233 calls of suspected child abuse/neglect in 2018

Of those, 44% (7,241) were screened out at the intake level; 46% (7,489) were assigned to a caseworker for a full investigation. 11% (1,837) were accepted for child welfare services.

9% of these (1,390) were connected to open cases; 10% (1,442) were related to active cases.

- Call Screening Unit (receives referrals and generates reports 24/7 & 365)
- Two types of referrals: CPS vs. GPS
- CPS referrals = assigned for Investigation
- GPS referrals = Assign for Assessment vs. Screen Out
- Engagement Unit: Extension of Call Screening to assist with GPS Screening decisions via information gathering
- Intake functions are time limited!
- Two Service Decisions: Accept for Service vs. Case Closure

How Intake is Structured and Functions:



Engagement Unit

Extension of Call Screening

Any referral for children 0-3 that are impacted by the allegations

Reports on children enrolled in Cyber school or Home School

Reports that are the 4th call on a family within 2 years where there hasn't been an INV in that timeframe

Any other report where Call Screening would like more information to arrive at a Screening decision

Recommendations generated:

Screen Out (Agency involvement ends here)

Assign for Assessment

Night Intake

Staffed 4pm-12am, M-F

Casework staff do not carry a caseload, rather, focus on assuring child safety after hours

- New referrals
- Active cases in crisis only when the crisis emerges after 4:30pm M-F

Not intended or equipped to handle emergencies that surface on active cases prior to 4:30pm, M-F

Child Protective Services Law

Who qualifies as a Perpetrator?

How is abuse/neglect defined?

Perpetrator: Acts of Abuse (*Commission*)

Parents of any age

Spouse, paramour, former spouse, or former paramour of parent

Raises the age to 14 years or older for a person responsible for a child's welfare including:

Those with direct or regular contact with a child through any program, activity or service sponsored by a school, for-profit, religious, or non-profit organization (e.g. camps, athletic or enrichment program, troops, clubs, etc.)

School employees and independent contractors

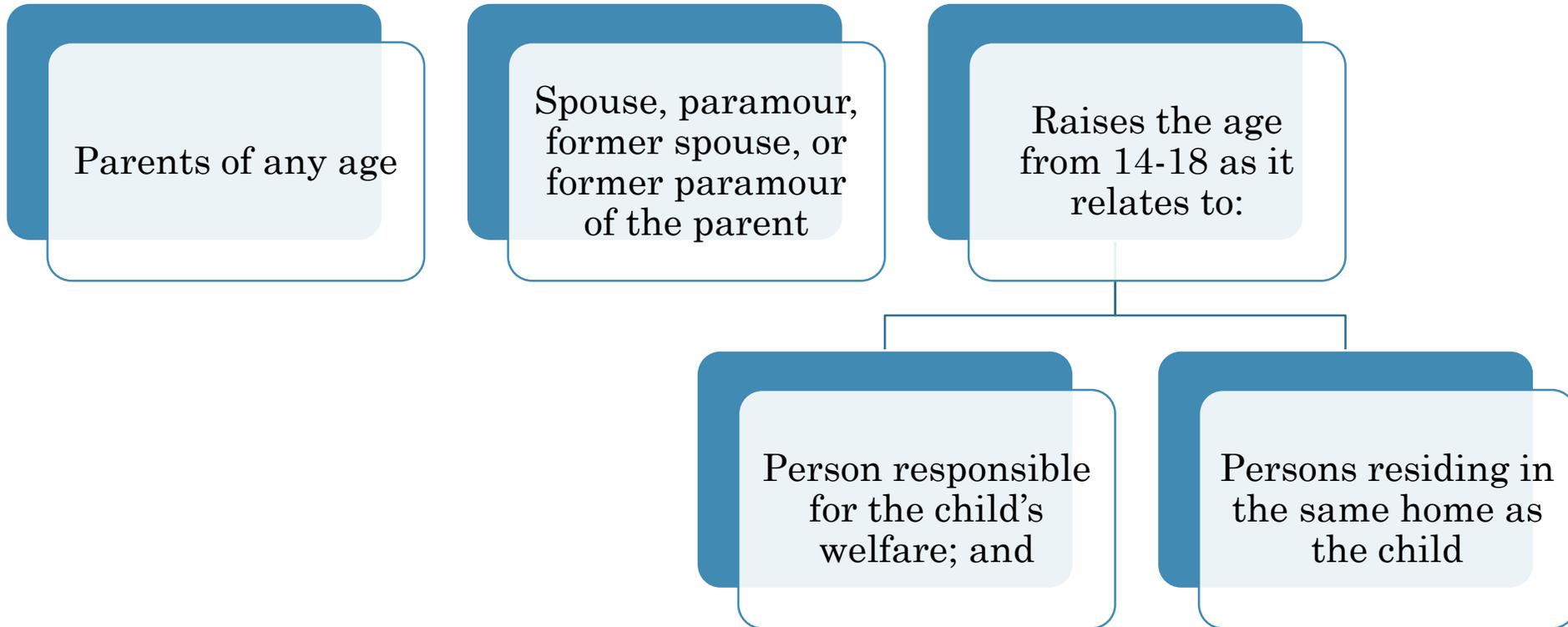
Perpetrator: Acts of Abuse: (*commission, cont'd*)

Any household member 14 years of age or older

Includes individuals 18 years or older who do not reside in the same home as the child *and* are related within the third degree of blood, marriage, or adoption

An individual 18 years of age or older who engages a child in severe forms of trafficking in persons or sex trafficking, as defined under section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (114 Stat. 1466, 22 U.S.C. § 7102).

Perpetrator: Failure to Act (*Omission*)



Definitions of *Child Abuse*

Child Abuse shall mean
intentionally, recklessly, or
knowingly doing any of the
following:

(1) Causing **bodily injury** through any recent act or failure to act. Bodily injury is that which causes *impairment of a physical condition* or *substantial pain*

(2) Creating a reasonable likelihood of *bodily injury* to a child through any recent act or failure to act

(3) Fabricating, feigning or intentionally exaggerating or inducing a medical symptom or disease which results in a potentially harmful medical evaluation or treatment to the child through any recent act

(4) *Causing* or *substantially contributing*
to **serious mental injury** of a child
through any act or failure to act or a series
of such acts or failures to act

(5) Causing **sexual abuse or exploitation** of a child through any act or failure to act

Sexual Abuse/ Exploitation (Cont'd)

The employment, use, persuasion, inducement, enticement or coercion of a child to engage in or assist another individual to engage in sexually explicit conduct, which includes, but is not limited to, the following:

Looking at the sexual or other intimate parts of a child or another individual for the purpose of arousing or gratifying sexual desire in any individual

Participating in sexually explicit conversation either in person, by telephone, by computer or by a computer-aided device for the purpose of sexual gratification of any individual

Sexual Abuse/ Exploitation (Cont'd)

- Actual or simulated sexual activity or nudity for the purpose of sexual stimulation or gratification of any individual
- Actual or simulated sexual activity for the purpose of producing visual depiction, including photographing, videotaping, computer depicting, or filming

Consensual acts between children age 14-18 are excluded as sexual abuse unless they involve *force or coercion*

(6) Creating a likelihood of *sexual abuse or exploitation* of a child through any recent act or failure to act

(7) Causing serious
physical neglect of a
child

(8)
Engaging
in any of
the
following
recent acts

Kicking, biting, throwing,
burning, stabbing or
cutting a child in a
manner that endangers
the child

Unreasonably restraining
or confining a child, based
on consideration of the
method, location, or
duration of the restraint
or confinement

Forcefully shaking,
slapping or striking a
child < 1 year

Interfering with the
breathing of a child

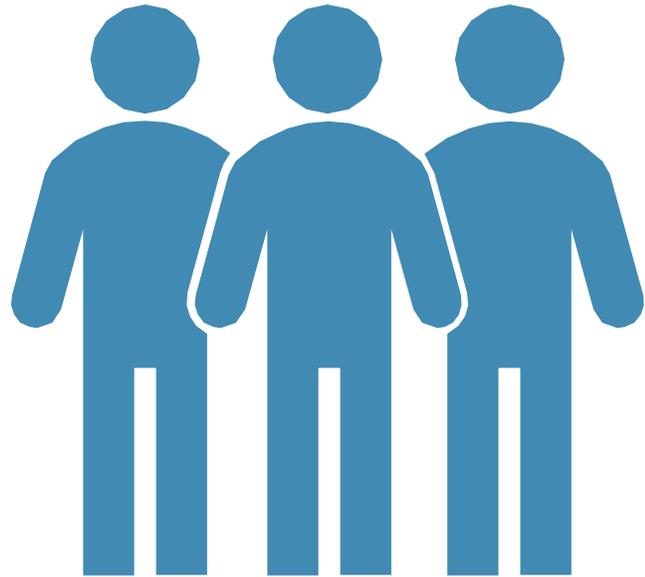
(8)
Engaging
in any of
the
following
acts
(Cont'd)

Causing child to be present at a methamphetamine lab, provided that the violation is being investigated by law enforcement

Leaving child unsupervised with an individual, other than the child's parent, who the actor knows or reasonably should have known:

- Required to register as a **Tier II or Tier III sexual offender** where the **victim was under 18 years** of age when the crime was committed
- Has been determined to be a **sexually violent predator**
- Has been determined to be a **sexually violent delinquent child**

(9) Causing the *death* of
the child through any
act or failure to act



(10) Engaging a child in a severe form of **trafficking** in persons or **sex trafficking**, as those terms are defined under section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (114 Stat. 1466, 22 U.S.C. § 7102).

GPS

Truancy

Infant's Born Exposed

Concrete Goods

Parent Teen Conflict

Mental Health

Drugs and Alcohol

IPV

Homelessness

Neglect

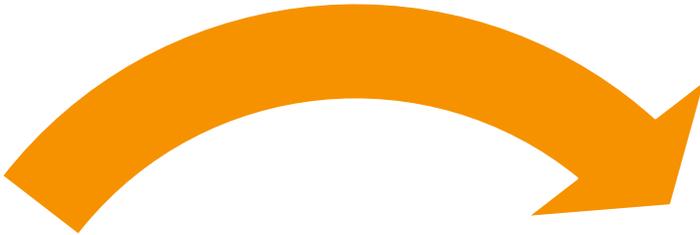
Mandatory Reporting of Infants

§ 6386 of Title 23



Health care providers are required to immediately make a report or cause a report to be made to the county agency if involved in the delivery or care of a child under one year of age who is born and identified as being affected by any of the following:

1. Illegal substance abuse by the child's mother
2. Withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug exposure – *unless* the mother, during pregnancy, was under the care of a prescribing medical professional and in compliance with directions for the administration of the prescription drug
3. A fetal alcohol spectrum disorder



Children must be visited
in their living
environment at least
every 30 days; however,
when risk is rated as
“high”, visits must occur
weekly

30 – 60 days to complete
investigation/assessment



Investigative Timeframes:

Conferencing and Teaming

The Practice
model of
Allegheny County
Children, Youth
and Families

Practice Principles:



Recognition of the **family as expert**.

Strengths based

Priority on improving **health, well-being and the self-reliance** of individuals we serve

Formal services, when necessary, **will be individualized, comprehensive, and provided based on an individual's unique needs.**

Maintaining a broad eye for **culture**

Use of a **common set of tools** that allows us to capture an individual/families' shared vision, and to utilize that in our engagement, communication and planning with the individual/family

Juvenile Court

Why do we go to Court?



1. PLACEMENT

- Child taken into protective custody
- Change placement
- Continue a placement

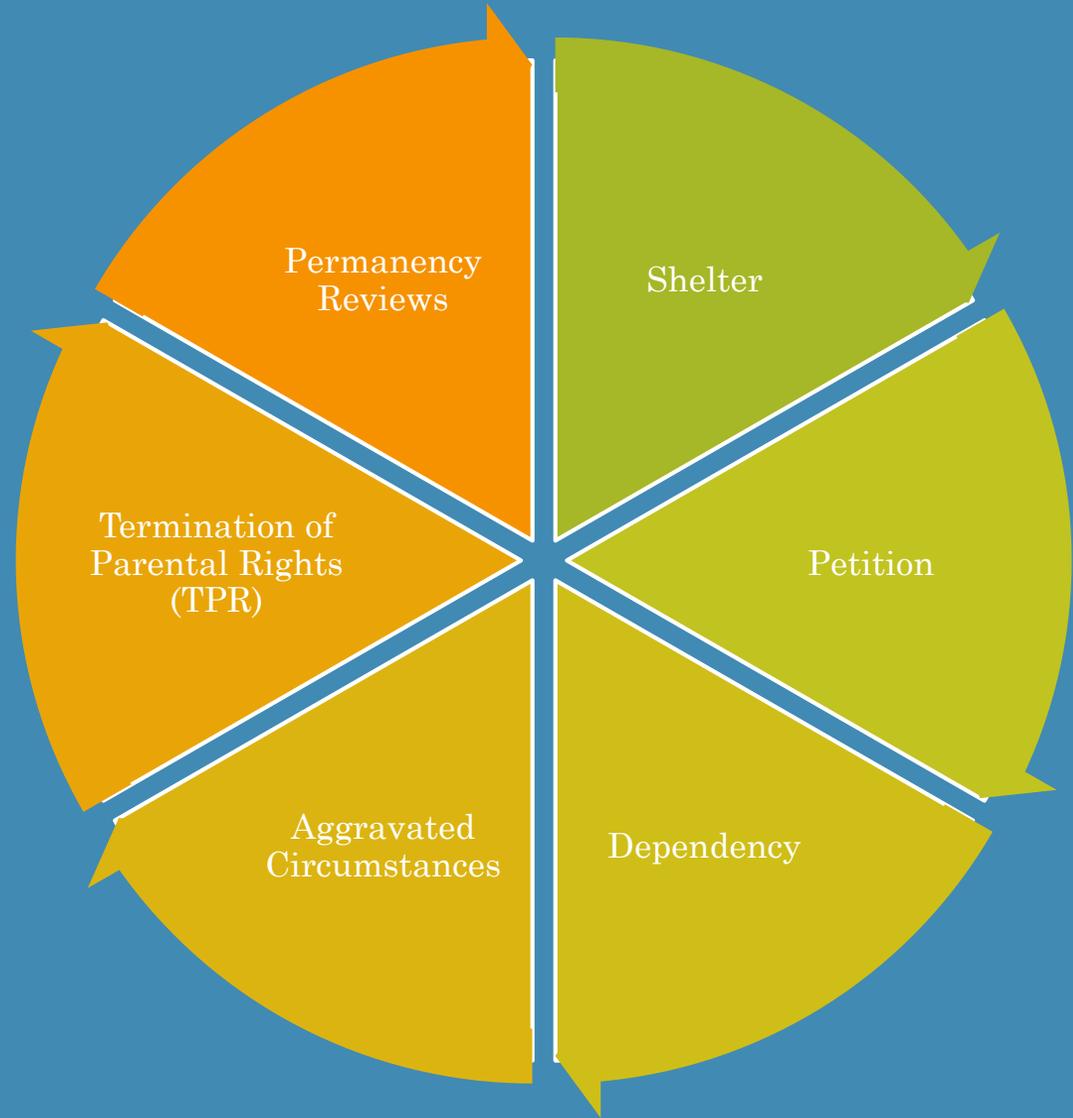
2. TO GAIN COOPERATION

- With investigation
- With course of treatment
- With CYF supervision

3. PARENTS' DUE PROCESS RIGHTS

Safety Plans

Types of Hearings



Grounds for Dependency

1. Is without proper parental control, subsistence and/or education as required by law or other control necessary for their physical, mental or emotional health or moral well-being is without proper parental care or control, subsistence, education as required by law, or other care or control necessary for his physical, mental, or emotional health, or morals. A determination that there is a lack of proper parental care or control may be based upon evidence of conduct by the parent, guardian or other custodian that places the health, safety or welfare of the child at risk, including evidence of the parent's, guardian's or other custodian's use of alcohol or a controlled substance that places the health, safety or welfare of the child at risk;
2. Has been placed for care or adoption in violation of law.
3. Has been abandoned by his parents, guardian or other custodian.
4. Is without parent, guardian or legal custodian.
5. While subject to compulsory school attendance is habitually and without justification truant from school.

Grounds for Dependency, (cont'd)

6. Has committed a specific act or acts of habitual disobedience of the reasonable and lawful commands of his parents, guardian or other custodian and who is ungovernable and found to be in need of care, treatment or supervision.
7. Is under the age of ten years and has committed a delinquent act.
8. Has been formally adjudicated dependent, and is under the jurisdiction of the court, subject to its conditions or placements and who commits an act defined as ungovernable in paragraph (6).
9. Has been referred pursuant to 6323 (relating to informal adjustment), and who commits an act which is defined as ungovernable in paragraph (6).
10. Is born to a parent whose parental rights with regard to another child have been involuntarily terminated under 23 PA.C.S.A. 2511 within three years immediately preceding the date of birth of the child and conduct of the parent poses a risk to the health, safety or welfare of the child.

Permanency Goals

- › Reunification
- › Adoption
- › Permanent Legal Custodian
- › Fit and Willing Relative
- › Another Permanent Living Arrangement

What you
need to know

Mandated Reporters

Mandated Reporters Must Report When:

1. Come in contact with a child in the course of employment, occupation, and practice of a profession or through a regularly scheduled program or service.
2. Are directly responsible for the care, supervision, guidance, or training of the child, or are affiliated with an agency, institution, organization, school, regularly established church or religious organization or other entity that is directly responsible for the care, supervision, guidance or training of the child.
3. A person makes a specific disclosure to the mandated reporter that an identifiable child is the victim of child abuse
4. An individual 14 years of age or older makes a specific disclosure to the mandated reporter that the individual has committed child abuse

Note: *The law does not require a child to “come before” mandated reporters for them to make a report of suspected child abuse. Also, the law does not require the mandated reporter to identify the person responsible for the child abuse to make a report.*

Mandated Reporters: Protocol

Mandated reporters who have reason to suspect that a child is a victim of abuse and who are staff at a medical or other public or private institution, school, facility, or agency must **themselves** make an **immediate** and **direct** report to ChildLine

After reporting to Childline, these mandated reporters must then notify the person in charge of their institution, school, agency, or facility

The person in charge must facilitate the cooperation of the institution, school, facility, or agency with any investigation of the report

Mandated Reporters

Reports of suspected abuse can be made orally or in written form

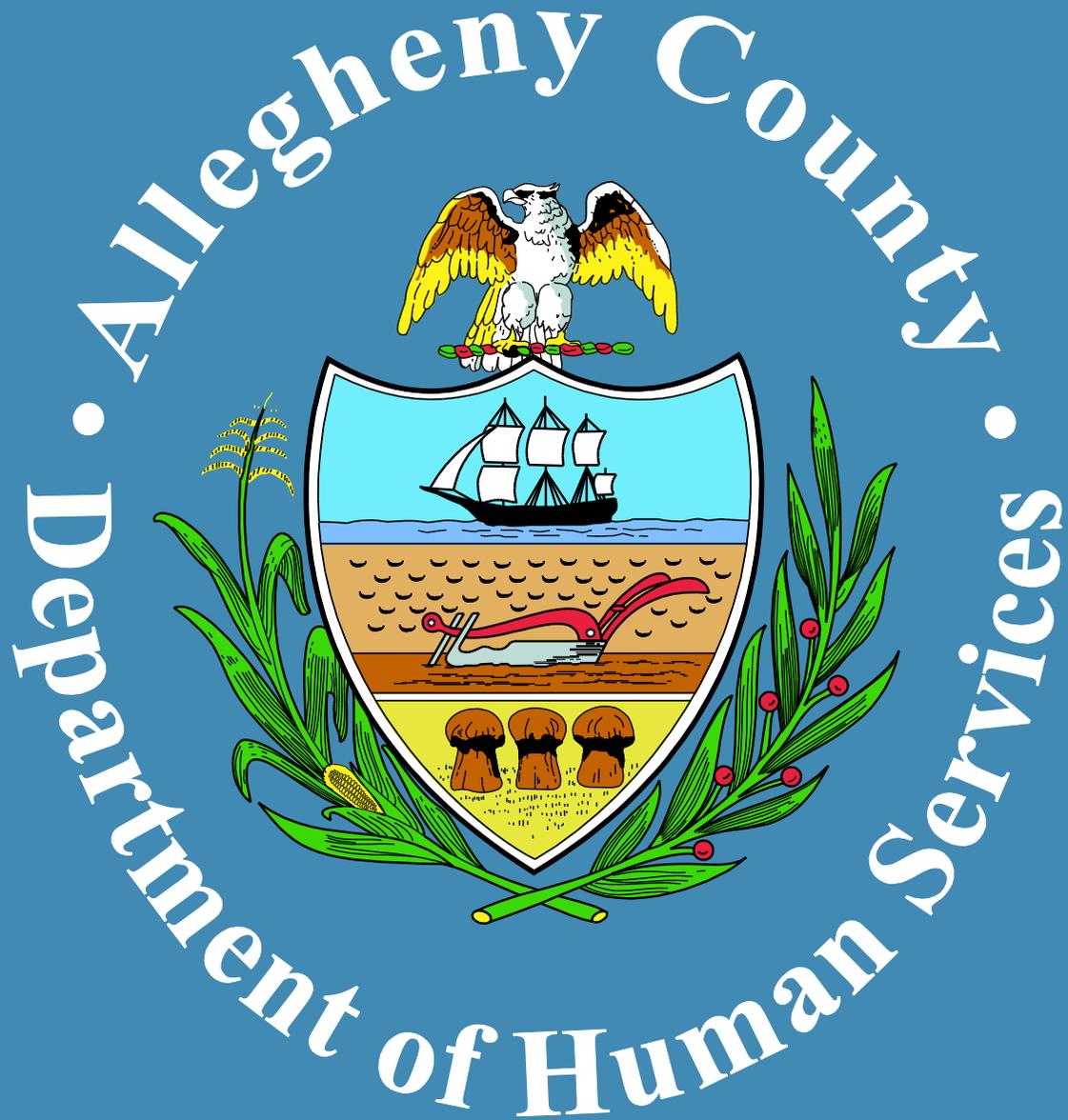
Oral reports via Childline (***1-800-932-0313***) must be accompanied by a written CY-47 within 48 hours

Written reports can also be submitted electronically through an online portal (*Child Welfare Information System-CWIS*)

Permissive Reporter (general public)

Mandated Reporters

The **department** must notify the mandated reporter of the final status of a report, and about services provided or arranged, within three (3) business days after receiving the final results of an **investigation**.



Questions/Discussion