

CPI/CPS (Child Protective Investigations/Child Protective Services) will continue to function as normal during this COVID-19 pandemic. The levels of concern for the safety and well-being of children remain the same, if not increased, during the extended period of time that children are not at daycare or school and are restricted from public recreation. As communities adjust and stress increases, keeping families safe remains a priority for The SAFE Alliance and partnering agencies.

Federal laws requiring Child Protective Investigations (CPI) to investigate child safety from abuse or neglect is still in effect.

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| ❖ P1 status cases require child unbiased interview within 24 hours | ❖ P2 status cases require child unbiased interview within 48-72 hours |
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Tips for SAFE Staff to effectively guide clients when working with CPI/CPS

- ✓ Be mindful of our SAFE mission to Stop Abuse For Everyone and staff guiding principles
 - do not project biases, opinions, judgements or past experiences onto the client or CPI/CPS
 - ✓ Share chart below with your client to assist the client to make informed decisions
 - ✓ Support your client to offer to call the caseworker on speaker or video chat with your advocate or attorney to
 - better help them understand and prepare for the current situation
 - effectively communicate strengths and protective factors that the survivor is already achieving
 - collaborate with survivor and caseworker/attorney to establish a safe plan to meet, etc.
 - ✓ Staff with your supervisor as needed
- ** Remember safety protocols to protect yourself!**
- Ask the client if they if they have symptoms or been in contact with someone who has tested positive to Corona Virus or traveled outside of the country within the last 90 days
 - If necessary, ask clients, visitors and wash hands up to elbows for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer (up to 60% alcohol)
 - Social distancing. Stand or sit at least 6ft apart
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth or each other (no handshakes, hugs, etc.)
 - Clean areas with proper materials frequently



SAFE | The Parent Quick Glance to a Child Protective Investigation

Have you been informed that you may have open CPS case?

Timely compliance can be critical depending upon the status of the investigation (P1 or P2).

- Compliance can lead to
 - ensuring child safety (and even parent safety)
 - collaborative efforts with the parent, CPI/CPS and our staff to provide ongoing support
- Non-Compliance or delayed response can result in advanced efforts to make contact with you/ your child by
 - involving Law Enforcement to enforce well-check,
 - obtaining an emergency court order to see your children or require you to surrender your children
 - listing your child (and you) as missing through the Amber Alert and/or local media
 - partnering with DPS and Sheriff's office in search of you/ your child

Call 512.369.7000 to obtain case status.

You can ask:

- if there is an open case and date opened
- name, phone number and email for both the case worker and supervisor

A case worker will stop by unannounced to:

- interview your child (may include picture, audio or video recording)
- Interview you and the other parent (caregiver), family, friends, neighbors or other children in the home
- possibly inspect the condition of the home

Once you have verified that there is an open case, you should contact the caseworker as soon as possible.

There are several safe ways to consider making contact:

- In private by text, phone, email or video chat
- On speaker or video chat with your advocate or attorney
- Schedule a meeting time and location
- Request a language translator or Level 4 Deaf Interpreter if needed.

Collaboration and compliance is key. ****Please notify SAFE staff, caseworker or attorney if you are in quarantine due to possible contact or positive Corona Virus Test before meeting or allowing into your home.**

You can ask caseworkers:

- if they have symptoms or been in contact with someone who has tested positive to Corona Virus
- the caseworker to wash hands when entering your home or before examining your child or touching items
- to meet outside and stand 6 feet apart from each other

The Child Protective Investigator (caseworker) will:

- only go to your home if they're not experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms and/or do not know they have been exposed
- possibly need to stand within close proximity and/or examine your child
- inform the parent within 24 hours after the child interview
- discuss the report, an explanation of injuries, safety concerns or risk of abuse/neglect and inform you of next steps
- attempt to be creative for ongoing visits to call, text, email, video/virtual visits while considering the risk and safety of the child. Communicate with the caseworker the methods that work best for you and if any of the current methods cause a safety concern or risk confidentiality (others are around you?).
 - creative efforts of communication cannot prevent or interfere with assessing/ensuring child safety investigation efforts.

The SAFE Alliance will:

- partner to promote safety for all
- provide ongoing trauma informed support and services to survivors and children
- follow federal guidelines to protect your confidentiality
- be mandated reporters of suspected abuse and/or neglect
- refer and collaborate internally with SAFE Futures Program, which focuses on the intersection of Child Welfare and Family Violence to provide specialized Legal Advocacy, Case Management and Parent Education.