

Our Mission

Snyder County Children and Youth Services is a team of child welfare workers whose strive to:

- protect children by investigating/assessing health, safety, and abuse/neglect concerns
- strengthen, preserve, and support the families of Snyder County
- partner with community resources that provide ongoing support, education, and preventative services
- provide permanency services for children removed from their home, with the primary goal of reunifying the family

Our Vision

Our vision is to be a model for excellence in child welfare and viewed as a positive resource among the community by:

- Ensuring that children live in safe, permanent, nurturing homes with family whenever possible by improving the use of preventative services and informal supports
- Reducing the occurrences of child abuse/neglect
- Improving involvement of absent parents
- Understanding the unique needs of those we serve
- Providing education and advocacy for families to improve quality of service
- Enhancing communication between agencies
- Ensuring staff retention and providing educational opportunities to improve quality of service

Our Core Values

Respect: We recognize the diversity of our community and embrace our differences.

Honesty & Integrity: We will be straightforward in our work with peers, families, and the community.

Family Focused: We strive to put the family first and keep families together whenever possible.

Professionalism: We proudly represent our profession through commitment and quality services to our families and community.

Frequently Asked Questions

If I make a report, will my identity be shared?

No. Persons who report concerns or cooperate with an Agency assessment or investigation are guaranteed confidentiality.

Some reports are shared with police. When that happens, the police must also protect the reporter's privacy.

How old do children have to be before they can be left home alone?

There is no legal age and no simple answer to this common question. Parents and caregivers must make this judgment, taking into consideration things like the child's level of maturity, the child's knowledge of home safety, how long the child will be home alone, the time of day that the child will be home alone, and accessibility and availability of nearby adults.

What is the legal age to be a babysitter?

Again, the law establishes no age and there is no simple answer. Factors to consider, in addition to those listed above, include the number and ages of children to be cared for, any special care needs of those children, and the behavior of those children.

Does the Agency address custody issues?

No. Child custody cases are handled by the Family Court. For more information, contact an attorney.

Is physical punishment considered child abuse?

In Pennsylvania, parents have the right to discipline their children as they see fit, including the use of physical punishments like spanking. When this discipline results in a bodily injury to the child or substantial pain, it is generally considered child abuse.

The Agency promotes non-physical discipline methods, including the use of rewards and consequences.

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SNYDER COUNTY CHILDREN & YOUTH SERVICES



**713 Bridge Street, Suite 15
Selinsgrove, PA 17870**

OFFICE HOURS:
8:00am – 4:00pm

Monday through Friday

Phone (570) 374-4570

Fax (570) 374-4351

www.snydercounty.org/Depts/Children_and_Youth

In case of after-hours emergencies, call:

911 (in Snyder County)

(570) 372-0826 (outside Snyder County)

TO REPORT CHILD ABUSE:

Call ChildLine at (800) 932-0313

or log onto www.KeepKidsSafe.pa.gov

(for mandated reporters)



What is Children and Youth Services?

Every county in Pennsylvania has its own Children and Youth Services agency. Each of these agencies operates under the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, Office of Children, Youth, and Families. These county agencies are mandated by state and federal law to respond to and protect children from abuse and neglect. Each county agency is structured to meet the needs of its community, so they all look a little bit different from one another.

In Snyder County, we provide a wide range of protective and supportive services to children and families.



What services does Snyder County Children & Youth Services provide?

- Information & Referral Services
- Child abuse investigations
- Assessments for general concerns (such as inappropriate punishment, lack of supervision, unsafe home conditions, truancy, behavior issues)
- Service planning
- Shared case responsibility with Juvenile Probation
- Placement for children birth to 21 years of age
- Independent living services for youth 14 to 21 years old
- Developmental assessments
- Family Group Conferencing
- Homemaker services
- Adoptions for children in Agency custody who are unable to return home
- Adoption searches*
- Home inspections*
- Home study investigations*
- Court ordered supervised visitation for custody cases*
- Adoption studies*
- Respite care (day/overnight)*
- Court testimony for custody proceedings*
- Post-placement visitation*
- Child safety seat inspections
- Parenting education
- Family preservation/reunification services

*A fee may be associated with this service

What happens after a report is received by the Agency?

This chart shows how cases flow through the Agency.

