



DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SAFETY Protective Services Review Team Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is the Protective Services Review Team?

The Protective Services Review Team (PSRT) provides appeal rights to a person who may have abused or neglected a child.

Why did I receive this letter?

PSRT is required to attempt to notify all parents, legal guardians, and alleged fathers named in the dependency petition indicating the Department of Child Safety (DCS) has proposed to substantiate an allegation of abuse or neglect, as stated in the dependency petition.

What is a dependency petition and what does it mean?

A dependency petition is a formal document filed in Superior Court, Juvenile Division that says your child may have been abused or neglected and is in need of protection. After a dependency petition is filed, court hearings will be scheduled with the judge.

Do I need an attorney?

The juvenile court will appoint an attorney to represent parents, legal guardians and alleged fathers of a child. If you cannot afford an attorney, one may be appointed free of charge or at a reduced fee.

What is the Central Registry?

The Central Registry is a confidential database maintained by DCS of all substantiated findings of abuse or neglect. If a judge determines that abuse or neglect occurred, your name will be placed in the Central Registry; this is the law.

What does substantiation mean?

Substantiation means that an allegation has proven to be true.

Who has access to the Central Registry?

Access to the Central Registry is strictly limited by law. State law allows the Central Registry to be checked for foster home licensing, adoptive parent certification, child care home certification, registration of unregulated child care homes with the child care resource and referral system, and home and community based services certification for services to children or vulnerable adults. State law allows the Central Registry to be checked by state agencies during the hiring process for positions that provide direct service to children or vulnerable adults. State law also allows the Central Registry to be checked by state contractors, subcontractors, and licensees for positions that provide direct service to children or vulnerable adults, such as group homes or adult care homes.

How do I get information about my next court date?

You can contact the Superior Court of the county in which the dependency petition was filed. The Superior Court and case number are found in the letter from PSRT.

How do I find out the name of my case manager and how do I contact them?

You may call the Child Abuse Hotline at 1-888-767-2445 to request contact with him or her.