

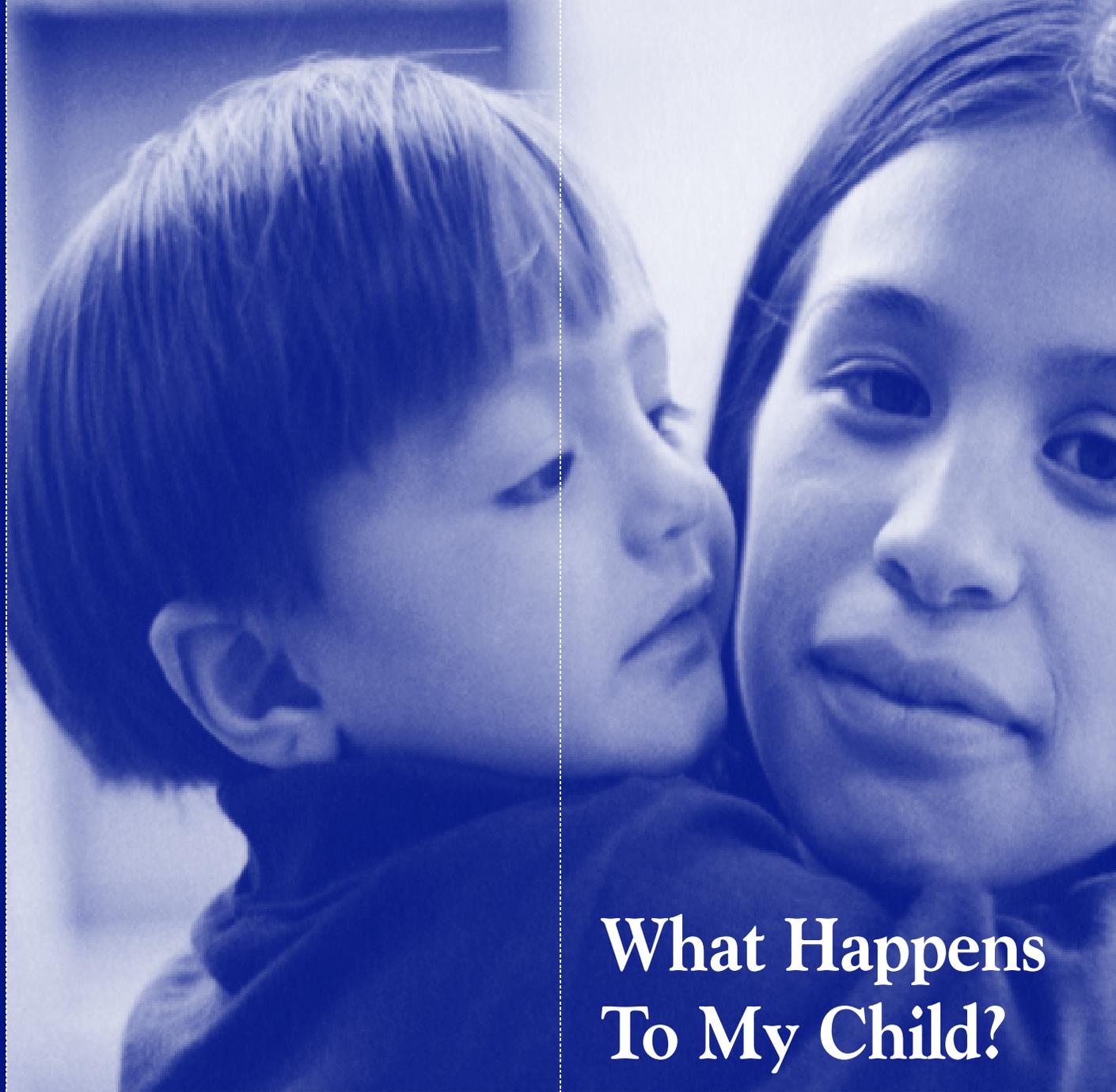


Will CPS tell anyone else where we are?

The location of the shelter will not be revealed. Your family's safety is of primary concern to CPS. CPS is required to keep information about our clients confidential. The law requires CPS to notify both parents of an investigation, but not the location of the investigation.

What happens when I leave the shelter?

When you leave the shelter, you will need a plan to protect yourself and your children. If CPS is working with you, discuss your options and alternatives with your caseworker. Having a safety plan in place to protect you and your children is important.



What Happens To My Child?

The Texas Department of
Family and Protective Services
PS0867-0000

Frequently Asked Questions
About Child Protective Services

What is CPS?

Child Protective Services (CPS) is required to investigate reports of child abuse or neglect to protect children. State law requires any person who believes that a child has been abused or neglected to make a report to CPS or to a law enforcement agency.

What does a CPS investigation mean?

When investigating a report, a caseworker talks to and visually examines the child reported as abused or neglected. Other children in the family are also interviewed and visually examined. Caseworkers gather as much information as they can to determine if abuse has occurred, if the child is currently at risk of abuse, and who caused the abuse. After gathering all of the facts, the caseworker and supervisor decide whether abuse or neglect has occurred and whether further CPS involvement is needed to protect the child.

Because I am in a family violence shelter, will CPS automatically become involved with my family?

No, seeking shelter does not result in an “automatic” report to CPS. CPS would become involved with your family only if someone reports abuse or neglect that affects your children. Seeking shelter in a family violence program is a good step to protect your child.



How will staying in a family violence shelter affect me?

Staying in the shelter may be your best option to protect both you and your child. Your work with shelter staff and use of community resources is a good sign of your willingness to protect your child. If CPS is involved, they may offer services or resources to help you as well.

Will CPS take my children away?

Being investigated by CPS does not mean that your child will be taken away. CPS believes that children should not be taken away unless there is no other way to protect children from harm. Only when there

is immediate danger to the children's physical health or safety, or after a court orders it, is CPS allowed to remove children from their parents' care.

If my children are taken away, can I get them back?

Most removals are temporary for the protection of the children. Only in extreme cases are children taken away permanently. If your children are removed, the caseworker will work with you to make it safe for the children to return.

How will CPS help my children and me?

Your caseworker and supervisor will work with you to plan services best suited to support you and prevent harm to your children. Some of the services that CPS may provide include giving families information; referring them to community resources; providing child day care, homemaker services or parent training; or helping find resources to pay for things such as essential household items or utility deposits.

What happens if I already have an open CPS case when I come to the shelter?

Tell your CPS caseworker that you have moved to the shelter and let them know how to get in touch with you. Your caseworker, as well as shelter staff, will help you. They are concerned about your safety and your children's safety.