

What is the Children's Services Act for At-Risk Youth and Families?

It is a Virginia law designed to help troubled youths and their families. State and local agencies, parents and private service providers work together to plan and provide services. In each community, local teams decide how to do this.

The Community Policy and Management team: (CPMT) coordinates agency efforts, manages the available funds, and sees that eligible youths and their families are referred for assessment as appropriate.

The Family Assessment and Planning team: (FAPT) looks at the strengths and needs of the individual youth and families, and with the families, decides what services to provide, and prepares a service plan agreed upon by the family and professionals.

Both teams include, staff from Community Services, Court Service Units, Social Services, the Public Schools and private providers. The CPMT also has a member from the local Health Department. In some localities, these teams go by different names and may also include other members.

Who is eligible for services?

Services under CSA may be available to a child who meets at least one of the following descriptions:

- has serious emotional or behavioral problems or
- may need care or resources beyond normal agency services, or
- needs special education through a private school program, or
- receives foster care services, or
- receives services to prevent foster care placements, including parental agreements, or
- is under supervision of the juvenile and domestic relations court, or domestic relations court, or
- is a ward of the Department of Juvenile Justice

Eligibility is determined by various laws (in education, juvenile justice and social services) and by your Community Policy and Management Team. Also, there must be funds available in your community.

How does CSA work?

A Family Assessment and Planning team meeting is scheduled with the FAPT Team and members of the family:

- the child and family take an active part in the FAPT meeting to discuss their needs
- a service plan is developed
- the family signs the service plan if they agree with the plan
- services begin as soon as possible
- if the family disagrees with the plan, they may ask for a review with the local CPMT
- parents may be required to make co-payments for community based services
- parents may be required to make child support payments for out of home placements
- parents are not required to make co-payments for special education services

What are the responsibilities that CSA has to me?

Most importantly, you deserve to understand the local CSA process:

- you should receive information on the local CSA process and timelines for receiving referrals
- you should be able to understand the information that you receive and it should be delivered in your native language, if possible
- you are to consent and agree in writing before beginning any services, except when ordered by the court
- you may have the opportunity to read records, challenge information, give permission for release of records and be provided a written copy of the records unless ordered otherwise by the court
- you have the ability to receive assistance from your Case Manager from the FAPT as well as members of your family, friends, advocates or support persons

- you will have the opportunity to review the assessment and service plan
- you can disagree with the assessment and service plan, or any part of the service plan, and you can place your concerns in writing to the FAPT and/or CPMT
- you are to participate and be present for the entire FAPT meeting and reviews - to discuss your child's and family's situation as well as participate in decisions that apply to your family.

Need more information?

Contact the:

Office of Children's Services for At-Risk Youth and Families

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CHILDRENS
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A PARENT'S
GUIDE

