

# Children's Charter

FOR THE CHURCH  THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## Nurture of the child

Children are a heritage from the LORD, and the fruit of the womb is a gift. — Psalm 127:4 (BCP)

### THE CHURCH IS CALLED:

- to receive, nurture and treasure each child as a gift from God;
- to proclaim the Gospel to children, in ways that empower them to receive and respond to God's love;
- to give high priority to the quality of planning for children and the preparation and support of those who minister with them;
- to include children, in fulfillment of the Baptismal Covenant, as members and full participants in the Eucharistic community and in the church's common life of prayer, witness and service.

## Ministry to the child

Then Jesus took the children in his arms, placed his hands on each of them and blessed them. — Mark 10:16

### THE CHURCH IS CALLED:

- to love, shelter, protect and defend children within its own community and in the world, especially those who are abused, neglected or in danger;
- to nurture and support families in caring for their children, acting in their children's best interest, and recognizing and fostering their children's spirituality and unique gifts;
- to embrace children who seek Christian nurture independently of their parents' participation in the church;
- to advocate for the integrity of childhood and the dignity of all children at every level of our religious, civic and political structures.

## Ministry of the child

A child shall lead them — Isaiah 11:6

### THE CHURCH IS CALLED:

- to receive children's special gifts as signs of the Reign of God;
- to foster community beyond the family unit, in which children, youth and adults know each other by name, minister to each other, and are partners together in serving Christ in the world;
- to appreciate children's abilities and readiness to represent Christ and his church, to bear witness to him wherever they may be, and according to gifts given them, to carry on
- Christ's work of reconciliation in the world, and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the church. (Ministry of the Laity pg. 855 BCP)

For more information: [www.episcopalchurch.org](http://www.episcopalchurch.org) 1-800-334-7626

Developed by the Episcopal Dioceses of Alaska, Bethlehem, Central New York, Chicago, Dallas, Hawaii, Iowa, Massachusetts, Mexico, Southwest Florida, Western North Carolina, Wyoming, and The Office of Children's Ministries for the Episcopal Church 56-9601-2



**County Agency Contact List by Agency Type**

<b>PCSA</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Fax Number</b>	<b>800 Number</b>
PCSA	Adams County	937-544-2511	937-544-9724	
PCSA	Allen County	419-227-8590	419-229-2296	
PCSA	Ashland County	419-282-5001	419-282-5010	800-589-8141
PCSA	Ashtabula County	440-998-1811	440-992-6828	888-998-1811
PCSA	Athens County	740-592-3061	740-797-2201	877-477-0772
PCSA	Auglaize County	419-739-6505	419-739-6506	
PCSA	Belmont County	740-695-3036	740-695-3036	
PCSA	Brown County	937-378-6104	937-378-4753	
PCSA	Butler County	513-887-4055	513-887-4260	800-325-2685
PCSA	Carroll County	330-627-7313	330-627-4969	800-442-2545
PCSA	Champaign County	937-484-1500	937-484-1506	
PCSA	Clark County	937-327-1700	937-327-1910	
PCSA	Clermont County	513-732-7173	513-732-8013	
PCSA	Clinton County	937-382-5935	937-382-1165	800-284-8942
PCSA	Columbiana County	330-424-7781	330-424-0931	
PCSA	Coshocton County	740-622-1020	740-622-5591	
PCSA	Crawford County	419-468-3255	419-468-6771	877-997-4344
PCSA	Cuyahoga County	216-432-3390	216-432-3379	800-321-0322
PCSA	Darke County	937-548-4132	937-548-4928	
PCSA	Defiance County	419-782-3881	419-784-3249	
PCSA	Delaware County	740-833-2300	740-833-2339	800-899-3130
PCSA	Erie County	419-624-6401	419-626-5854	
PCSA	Fairfield County	740-653-4060	740-687-7070	800-450-8845
PCSA	Fayette County	740-335-0350	740-333-3581	
PCSA	Franklin County	614-275-2571	614-275-2755	
PCSA	Fulton County	419-337-0010	419-335-0337	800-344-3575
PCSA	Gallia County	740-446-4963	740-446-2063	
PCSA	Geauga County	440-285-9141	440-286-6654	800-209-7590
PCSA	Greene County	937-562-6600	937-562-6650	
PCSA	Guernsey County	740-439-5555	740-439-5521	
PCSA	Hamilton County	513-946-1000	513-946-2265	800-315-7119
PCSA	Hancock County	419-424-7022	419-422-1081	
PCSA	Hardin County	419-675-1130	419-674-2340	800-442-7346
PCSA	Harrison County	740-942-3015	740-942-2370	800-960-7820
PCSA	Henry County	419-592-4210	419-592-4894	888-844-6449
PCSA	Highland County	937-393-3111	937-393-3299	800-406-3822
PCSA	Hocking County	740-385-4168	740-385-2479	
PCSA	Holmes County	330-674-1111	330-674-0770	800-971-7979
PCSA	Huron County	419-668-8126	419-668-4738	
PCSA	Jackson County	740-286-4181	740-286-4775	
PCSA	Jefferson County	740-264-5515	740-264-2860	
PCSA	Knox County	740-397-7177	740-397-2617	
PCSA	Lake County	440-350-4000	440-350-4399	
PCSA	Lawrence County	740-532-3324	740-532-9490	
PCSA	Licking County	740-670-8999	740-670-8993	888-895-2790
PCSA	Logan County	937-599-7290	937-599-7296	
PCSA	Lorain County	440-329-5340	440-329-5378	
PCSA	Lucas County	419-213-3200	419-327-3291	
PCSA	Madison County	740-852-4770	740-852-4756	
PCSA	Mahoning County	330-941-8888	330-941-8787	
PCSA	Marion County	740-389-2317	740-389-3499	
PCSA	Medina County	330-722-9300	330-722-9352	
PCSA	Meigs County	740-992-2117, Ext. 102	740-992-5688	800-992-2608
PCSA	Mercer County	419-586-5106	419-586-5643	
PCSA	Miami County	937-335-4103	937-339-7533	800-443-2321
PCSA	Monroe County	740-472-1602	740-472-5666	
PCSA	Montgomery County	937-224-5437	937-277-1127	
PCSA	Morgan County	740-962-3838	740-962-5344	



**County Agency Contact List by Agency Type**

PCSA	Morrow County	419-947-9111	419-947-1076	800-668-6458
PCSA	Muskingum County	740-455-6710	740-455-6719	
PCSA	Noble County	740-732-2392	740-732-4108	
PCSA	Ottawa County	419-898-3688	419-898-2436	
PCSA	Paulding County	419-399-3756	419-399-4674	
PCSA	Perry County	740-342-3836	740-342-5531	
PCSA	Pickaway County	740-474-3105/740-474-2176	740-477-1023	800-822-5437
PCSA	Pike County	740-947-5080/7761/7762	740-947-8413	
PCSA	Portage County	330-297-3724	330-297-3738	
PCSA	Preble County	937-456-1135	937-456-6205	
PCSA	Putnam County	419-523-4580	419-523-6130	800-998-5332
PCSA	Richland County	419-774-4100	419-774-4114	
PCSA	Ross County	740-773-2651	740-772-7648	800-413-3140
PCSA	Sandusky County	419-334-8708	419-355-5329	
PCSA	Scioto County	740-456-4164	740-456-6728	
PCSA	Seneca County	419-447-5011	419-447-5345	
PCSA	Shelby County	937-498-4981	937-498-1492	
PCSA	Stark County	330-451-8846	330-451-8706	800-233-5437
PCSA	Summit County	330-379-1986	330-379-1981	
PCSA	Trumbull County	330-372-2010	330-372-3446	
PCSA	Tuscarawas County	330-339-7791	330-339-6388	800-431-2347
PCSA	Union County	937-644-1010	937-644-8700	Child Care Network (937) 64-child
PCSA	Van Wert County	419-238-5430	419-238-2674	800-830-0953
PCSA	Vinton County	740-596-2571	740-596-1802	
PCSA	Warren County	513-695-1546	513-695-2957	
PCSA	Washington County	740-373-3485	740-373-1856	
PCSA	Wayne County	330-345-5340	330-345-7082	
PCSA	Williams County	419-636-6725	419-636-8843	
PCSA	Wood County	419-352-7566	419-352-5951	
PCSA	Wyandot County	419-294-4977	419-294-5874	

# FACT SHEET

## Child Protective Services

### **What are child protective services?**

Child protective services are services that prevent child abuse and neglect; that provide investigation into allegations of adult abuse, neglect and exploitation; and that offer services for abused and/or neglected children and their families (birth, foster and adoptive). The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) administers and oversees the state's child protective services programs. Child protective services in Ohio are provided by a network of 88 public children services agencies (PCSAs). Fifty-five of these are located within county departments of job and family services, and 33 operate independently.

Ohio's PCSAs are required to assess and investigate all reports of child abuse and neglect. After receiving a report, the PCSA will complete an assessment and, if necessary, work with the family to develop a case plan identifying services necessary to reduce risk to the child and prevent the abuse or neglect from occurring again. In instances where it is found that children cannot safely remain in their own homes, the PCSA will work with the local court system to remove them and find an alternative safe placement, preferably with relatives.

### **What is "Differential Response"?**

Differential Response offers caseworkers a second option for responding to accepted reports of suspected child abuse and neglect. Instead of conducting a traditional family assessment, they respond with an "alternative family assessment response," in which they assess the needs of the child or family—in a non-threatening, non-adversarial manner—and then offer services to meet those needs. Because a formal disposition that maltreatment has occurred is not required, the caseworker is able to place less emphasis on the circumstances of the incident and more focus on the family's overall needs. As of July 2011, 33 Ohio counties were offering this option.

Differential Response is neither better than nor a replacement for the traditional response. It merely acknowledges that families with different circumstances of varying severity require different responses. In many cases, the traditional response is the only way to protect children from harm. In other cases, however, issues can be resolved much more quickly and easily—and, for children, less traumatically—by taking an alternative approach.

### **What is the best way to report suspected abuse or neglect?**

To make a report of abuse or neglect, contact the law enforcement agency or PCSA in the county where the child and his or her parent, guardian or custodian reside or where the incident occurred. To find the phone number and location of the PCSA, go to <http://jfs.ohio.gov/County/cntydir.stm>.

### **Will the information be kept confidential?**

Ohio's Central Registry on Child Abuse and Neglect is a confidential database that contains allegations of reports of child abuse and neglect and information on the parties involved. Parties involved in a child abuse or neglect report may include the alleged perpetrator, alleged child victim, caretaker, and other children and adults involved in the report. The Privacy Act permits an individual whose name is contained in a personal database maintained by the state to request and receive information about the status of his/her name on that database.