

What kind of help can I get?

You know better than anyone what you and your family needs. Your social worker will work with you to find the right kind of help. He or she will explain the services, resources and supports available in your community. Together you will decide what is best for you and your family.

These are the areas that have been shown to improve the health and well being of families. We will be talking about these in our meetings:

- Having a strong bond with your children
- Being knowledgeable about parenting
- Knowing how to bounce back and seek help when needed
- Developing a strong connection to the community
- Being able to meet the basic needs of your family

Together we will find what is needed to strengthen your family.



Department of Children and Families
505 Hudson Street
Hartford, CT 06106
Phone (860) 550-6300
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FAMILY ASSESSMENT RESPONSE

*Community Approach to
Supporting Families*



WHAT IS DIFFERENTIAL RESPONSE?

Receiving a call or visit from DCF can be frightening.

Differential Response is a different way of responding to allegations of child abuse and neglect. Once we know your children are safe, the worker may offer you a special kind of service called a Family Assessment Response.

What is a Family Assessment Response?

A Family Assessment Response is a program that:

- Believes all families have strengths and abilities
- Keeps children safe
- Doesn't blame
- Works together with parents and their supports
- Provides services and resources to help meet the needs of families
- Helps connect families to their community

Other states that have used a Differential Response System have seen better outcomes for children, including greater family satisfaction because they

participate in identifying solutions that make them stronger and more capable.

A Family Assessment Response is a strength-based, family focused program that works together with families to identify their strengths, needs and to help connect families with services and supports in the community. The purpose of this approach is to keep children and families from becoming re-involved with DCF by engaging and helping families identify solutions to their problems and working closely with community programs and organizations.

How Does a Family Assessment Response Work?

Once a report is accepted for a Family Assessment Response, the worker will assess the safety of your children as well as identify your family's strengths and needs.

Once the safety of your children has been established, families decide whether they wish to participate in services.

Child and Family Team Meetings are held to develop plans to help support your family and address concerns. Families identify who they wish to invite to these meetings.

Together we will create a Service Plan that describes the steps that will be taken to support your family by DCF, the community, and by you.

DCF can assist your family by connecting you to services and resources in the community for ongoing support or in times of need.

Why am I receiving a Family Assessment Response?

- ✓ A report involving your family was accepted by the Careline.
- ✓ The report was considered a low risk report.
- ✓ Your family has had limited or no involvement with DCF in the past.
- ✓ Your child is found to be safe.

