

Our Mandate

The mandate of the Westmoreland County Children's Bureau (WCCB) is to:

- Provide for the safety and welfare of children
- Preserve and strengthen the family unit
- Ensure that children have a safe and permanent home in which to grow

Our Authority

All of our actions are guided by state and federal laws and regulations. The bureau is funded by federal, state, and county government.

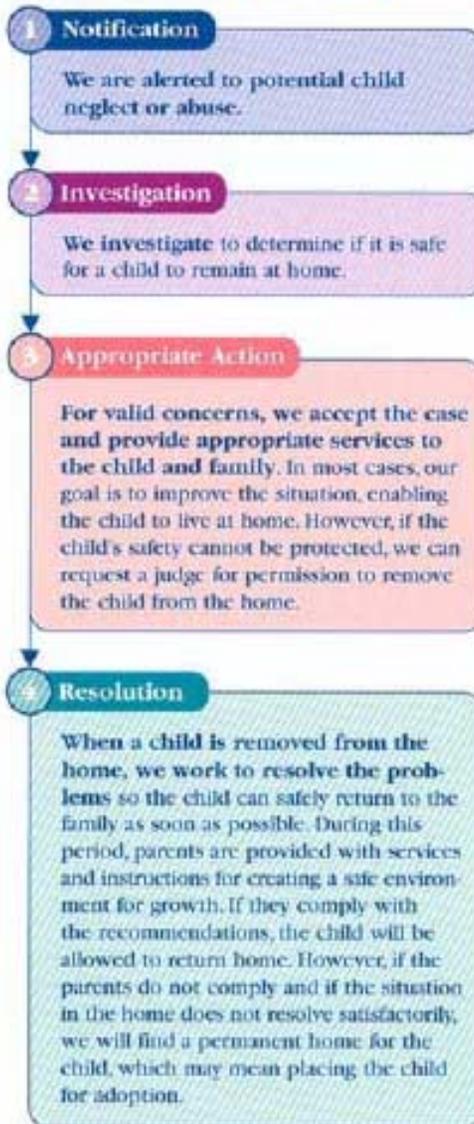
Our Process for Protecting Children and Strengthening Families

To cast a wide net in protecting children and promoting healthy families, we work closely with private social service agencies, school districts, drug and alcohol programs, mental health and mental retardation programs, and law enforcement agencies.

► Important Facts to Know

- We are on call 24 hours a day, every day of the year.
- All families in Westmoreland County are eligible for our services, regardless of income.

The WCCB Child Protection Process



WCCB Services

- **Investigation.** When alerted, we immediately assess a child's safety then thoroughly investigate abuse and neglect charges.
- **General protective services.** Government agencies and contracted social service providers offer a variety of services directly to help correct any issues or concerns that contribute to child neglect and abuse.
- **Emergency shelters.** We provide immediate, temporary placement for children who cannot safely remain in the home.
- **Foster homes and resource homes.** We recruit, screen, and train prospective foster and resource parents. We offer support and guidance to substitute caregivers and monitor each child's safety and needs.
- **Residential placements.** This covers group homes and treatment facilities for children with significant behavioral issues who need a highly structured environment.
- **Adoption.** This permanent solution is for children who cannot be returned home.
- **Independent living for youths 16 to 21 years of age.** Youths have classes in life skills and basic work skills that they need to function on their own. They can also receive individual counseling and assistance with obtaining higher education.
- **Generations-in-Touch pairings.** This offers an intergenerational match between seniors (55 and older) and newborns through 5 years. It provides nurturing contact, emotional support, and quality time one-on-one. Generations-in-Touch workers also supervise parent/child visits and provide assistance when a child needs to be placed outside the home.