

Washington County

Department of Social Services

FAMILY ASSESSMENT RESPONSE



Another Road to Safety

For more information about
Family Assessment Response

Contact:

Washington County
Department of Social Services
383 Broadway, Fort Edward
518-746-2320

WHAT IS FAMILY ASSESSMENT RESPONSE

Receiving a call or visit from child protective services can be frightening, especially if you are already struggling with stressful family issues. Family Assessment Response is based on the belief that parents love their children and want them to be safe. Sometimes parents need help to make that happen. Family Assessment Response can provide



SAFE CHILDREN

**SERVICES MATCHED
TO FAMILY NEEDS**

**CHALLENGES CAN BE
MET SUCCESSFULLY**

The Family Assessment Response is designed to work with you and provide needed supports, services and resources, focusing on child safety and your family's needs. A range of services will be available to meet the unique needs of your family.

FAMILY ASSESSMENT RESPONSE

FAMILY ASSESSMENT RESPONSE is a program that responds to concerns about child abuse and neglect by:

- Focusing on child safety
- Avoiding negative labels for parents
- Setting aside the issue of fault
- Working in partnership with parents
- Identifying families' needs
- Providing services and resources matched to families' needs
- Building on parents' and communities' strengths and resources
- Wanting to know how you think your child can be kept safe and your family flourishing

Family Assessment Response provides flexibility in deciding how to best meet families' needs.



How is a response chosen?

- When Washington County receives reports of child safety concerns, we must conduct either a family assessment or an investigation
- We make this decision based on state law
- We also consider a history of past reports and level of cooperation from families

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How can we work together to ensure children's safety and families' well-being through Family Assessment Response?

When Washington County child protective workers hear concerns raised about children's safety, we meet with families to assess families' needs and strengths.

In partnership with families we focus on the safety of children and family strengths to address concerns. We do not focus on the details of a specific incident to prove or disprove that abuse or neglect occurred.

We also discuss families' needs and then offer to help families meet their needs. We connect families with resources in their communities or through their informal support systems.