

# Information About Mandated Reporting for Parents, Relatives, and Kin

**Disclaimer:** *This is not a comprehensive list of all rights and responsibilities that you may have and is intended to help you think of questions you might want to ask and to help you advocate for yourself in various circumstances. If you have questions about your rights or your specific case, we encourage you to contact a qualified attorney with experience representing parents, guardians, and custodians in child protection matters.*

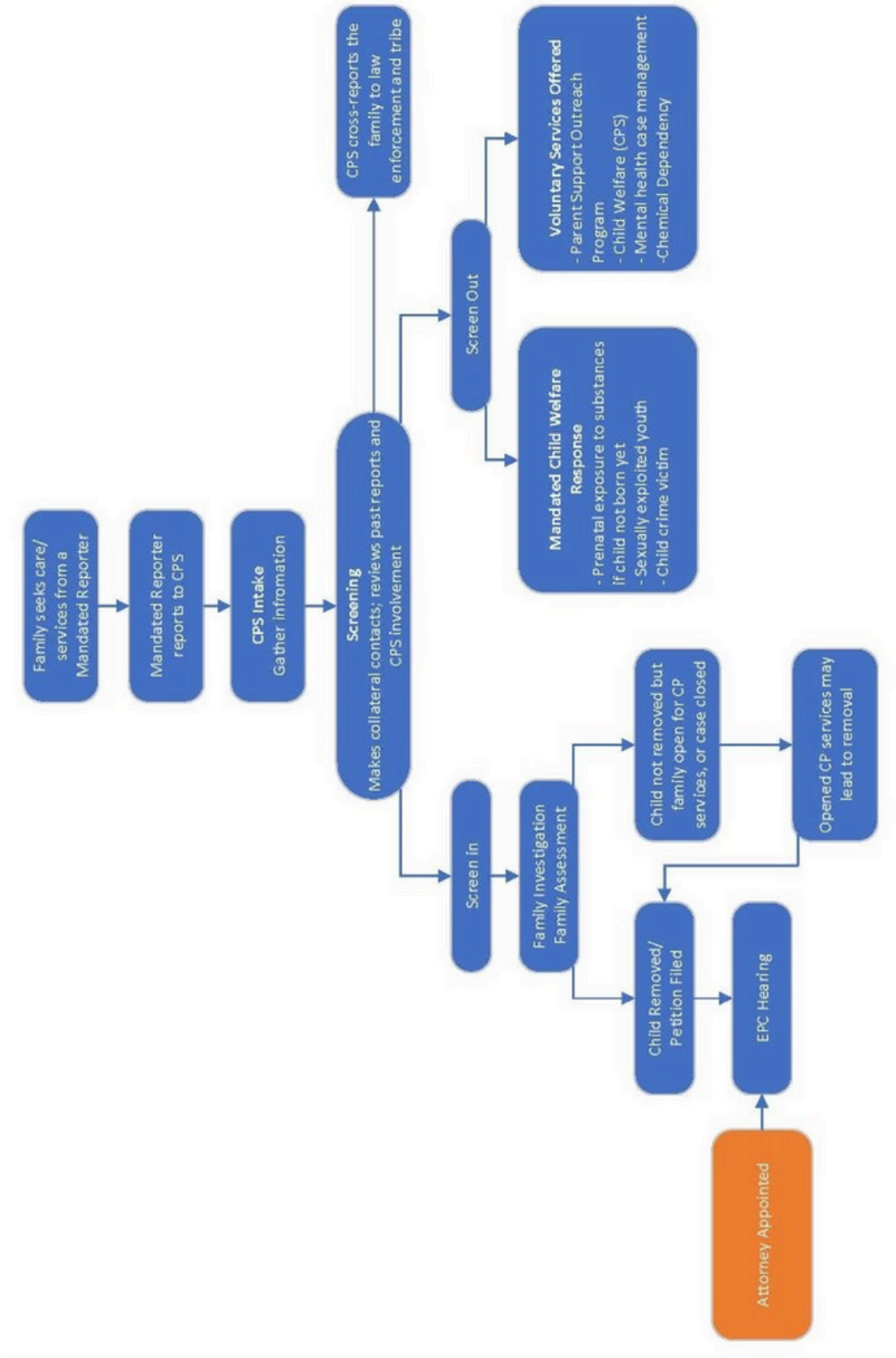
## How does a child protection case start?

- All child protection cases start with a report of suspected child abuse or neglect. Anyone can make a report but most reports are made by "mandated reporters" – people who are required under law to report.
- You have the right to know which people you interact with are mandated reporters. This is called "informed consent."
- You have a right to ask mandated reporters about their practices in making reports. You may benefit from having up front conversations about this in advance.
- The name of the person who makes a CPS report is confidential and you do not have the right to know who makes a report about you.
- Almost everyone working with you or your child in a professional capacity is a mandated reporter.
- Building trusting relationships with the mandated reporters in your life can make it easier for them to come to you first with questions or concerns or to give you the benefit of the doubt in these instances.
- Mandated reporting rules are outlined in law, but there are a wide variety of ways that different reporters think about their duty.

## What happens after a child protection report gets made?

- Once a child protection report gets made, "screeners" (people who answer the phone at the child protection intake line) will either "screen in" the report or "screen out" the report.
- If a report is screened in, that means that child protection will be taking some further action on it. This may be to open an investigation or to refer you to family assessment services.
- If a report is screened out, your family may still be offered voluntary resources by CPS or the report may simply be documented and set aside.
- During an investigation, child protection is not required to get your consent to interview your child. They are allowed to interview your child without you present and they are not required to notify you of the interview until after it is completed.

# Child Protection Intake Process



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