

Strengthening   
**VC Families**  
 Ventura County Children & Family Services

*Safe at Home...*

**We believe** families can keep their children safe with support.

*and if they can't...*

*Caregiving...*

**We believe** children should be cared for in a familiar, nurturing, and safe environment.

*and while they are in care...*

*Child's Experience...*

**We believe** every child is entitled to thrive through stability, family connections, quality treatment, and a voice in planning.

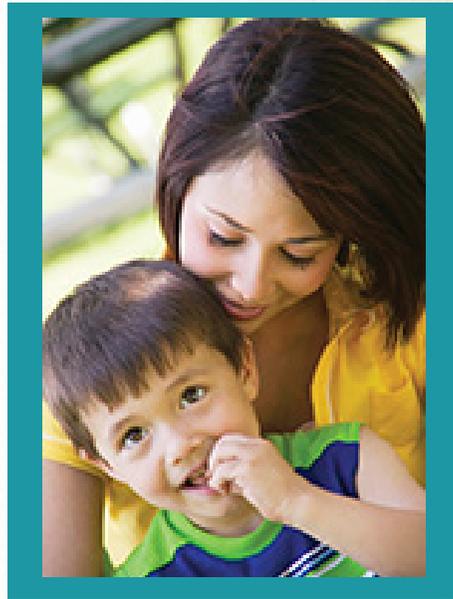
*Parental Support for Reunification...*

**We believe**, through partnership and support, parents can grow and change in order to safely parent their children.

*and if the children cannot return home...*

*Permanency...*

**We believe** all children deserve a sense of belonging, and a permanent, unconditional commitment in a lifelong family.



**T**he County of Ventura Human Services Agency provides public services that promote self-sufficiency, safety, health and well-being. Our programs and services help ensure the protection of children, the elderly and dependent adults. We also provide a safety net for individuals and families who need assistance with basic necessities, such as food, housing and health care. Additionally, we help people secure employment through education, training, job search skills, and job placement.

Children & Family Services

**Office Locations**

**Ventura** – (805) 654-3409  
 4651 Telephone Road, Suite 300  
 Ventura, CA 93003

**Oxnard** – (805) 240-2700  
 1400 Vanguard Drive, Suite C  
 Oxnard, CA 93033

**East County** – (805) 955-2290  
 2900 N. Madera Road, Suite 200  
 Simi Valley, CA 93065

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**VC Families**

Ventura County Children & Family Services

We need to find loving families for children and youth in Ventura County.

For more information on becoming a resource parent, contact Foster VC Kids today!

[fostervckids.org](http://fostervckids.org)  
 (805) 654-3220



Call 2-1-1 to learn about resources in your community



COUNTY OF VENTURA  
 Toll-Free: (866) 904-9362  
[www.vchsa.org](http://www.vchsa.org)

Children & Family Services



Protecting children by strengthening families



COUNTY OF VENTURA

## Keeping children safe

Early intervention is key to the long-term preservation of the family and the immediate safety of the child.



### What is Children & Family Services?

Children & Family Services (CFS) is a department within the County of Ventura Human Services Agency. We work with families and community partners to prevent, respond to, and reduce child abuse and neglect. Our primary focus is to protect children by strengthening families.

### How do we protect children by strengthening families?

It is our legal duty to respond to concerns about possible child abuse and neglect. Our highly trained staff engage with families to develop a plan and make decisions to keep children safe. We are guided by the following priorities:

- Provide services and support to help stabilize and preserve families to ensure the safety of the children.
- When a child is removed from the home, provide loving care in a family setting until the child can be reunified with their family of origin.
- If reunification is not possible, create a plan for permanency and the development of lifelong relationships for every child.

### How are families referred to us?

A community member calls the child abuse hotline to report a concern about a child's safety. We review the report to determine what action, if any, needs to be taken to ensure the child is safe.

**If you suspect a child is being abused or neglected, please call: (805) 654-3200 or 1-800-754-7600**

### How does Children & Family Services respond to protect children?

If the concern doesn't rise to the level of abuse or neglect, a social worker may work with a community organization to connect the family with the services or support needed. When abuse or neglect appear to be involved, a social worker may speak with the child, the parents, and possibly others to assess the child's safety and the needs of the family. In some instances, the child is able to remain at home while the family works to ensure a safer environment. In other cases, a child may need to be removed from the home to ensure his or her safety, and the Juvenile Court becomes involved to monitor the situation.

Whenever possible, a child removed from home will be placed in the home of a relative. If no relative is available who meets the required approval process, the child may be placed in a foster home. The ultimate goal is to return the child to the care of the parent or guardian as soon as it is deemed safe.

Children & Family Services is dedicated to helping families protect children from harm, safeguarding children who have been abused or neglected, and ensuring that children have safe and permanent homes.

### Ensuring the safety of the child

Once involved with Children & Family Services, the parent or guardian together with a social worker, develops a plan which may include counseling, substance abuse treatment, parent education, or other services to address the family's needs. When the parent completes the goals in the plan and the Juvenile Court determines the child can safely live with the parent or guardian, involvement with Children & Family Services and the court can end.

If a child cannot be safely returned to the care of his or her parent or guardian, an alternative permanent placement is arranged. Adoption by a relative is preferred, though if none is available, other possibilities include adoption by a non-relative, legal guardianship, or continued foster care.

Ensuring the privacy of children served is of utmost importance. While information required to protect the child is shared between the agencies responsible, including law enforcement and the courts, information about child abuse investigations cannot be disclosed to outside parties without a court order.

General inquiries about our services can be directed to Children & Family Services at (805) 477-5312. Parents with questions about their open case are asked to contact their social worker directly.

