

# CHILD WELFARE

ACLU-TN generally does not become involved in divorce cases, child support or in child custody disputes between parents stemming from divorce cases. To find an attorney who specializes in child welfare, you can contact your local legal services office and your local bar association.

## DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES (DCS) COMPLAINTS

DCS is the agency responsible for investigating reports of child abuse and neglect. They are also responsible for removing children who may be in danger of abuse and placing children in foster homes pending further investigations or court decisions.

A complaint of abuse or neglect by a person or by a public or private agency or institution will result in an investigation. If DCS is filing a termination of parental rights against you, you have a right to an attorney. If you can not afford one, then one may be provided for you.

## CHILD SUPPORT COMPLAINTS

Parents found in violation of child support orders may be subject to the loss of state licensure, including motor vehicle and professional licenses. Also, liens may be placed against any real or personal property.

## RESOURCES – NATIONAL AND STATE

ACLU-TN provides the following list of resources for informational purposes only. ACLU-TN does not endorse any of the organizations listed.

### National Organizations

- [Administration for Children and Families](#)  
[U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#)  
330 C Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20201  
**Website:** <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/>

### Atlanta Regional Office

61 Forsyth Street, Suite 4M60  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8909  
**Phone:** 404-562-2800  
**Fax:** 404-562-2981

Administration for Children and Families strive to foster health and well-being by providing federal leadership, partnership and resources for the compassionate and effective delivery of human services.

- [National Child Support Enforcement Association](#)  
7918 Jones Branch Drive  
McLean, VA 22102  
**Website:** <http://www.ncsea.org/>  
**Phone:** 703-506-2880  
**Fax:** 703-506-3266

NCSEA serves child support professionals, agencies, and strategic partners worldwide through professional development, communications, public awareness, and advocacy to enhance the financial, medical and emotional support that parents provide for their children.

- [Child Care Aware](#)  
1515 North Courthouse Road, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Arlington, VA 22201  
**Website:** <http://www.childcareaware.org/en/>  
**Phone:** 1-800-424-2246  
**TTY:** 1-866-278-9428  
**Fax:** 703-341-4101

Child Care Aware helps families learn more about quality child care and how to locate programs in their communities.

- [Childhelp's National Child Abuse Hotline](#)  
**Website:** <http://www.childhelp.org/>  
1-800-4-A-CHILD (800-422-4453)

The Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline is dedicated to the prevention of child abuse.



P.O. Box 120160, Nashville, TN 37212  
**Tel: 615.320.7142**

- **[Institute for Responsible Fatherhood and Family Revitalization](#)**

3594 Haynes St. NE Suite 102  
Washington, DC 20019-7522

**Website:** <http://www.interchange.org/romros/resource-12.html>

**Phone:** 202-396-8320

**Fax:** 202-396-8326

Institute for Responsible Fatherhood & Family Revitalization is a grassroots organization working with fathers and mothers to enhance self-worth and communication skills to empower them to take charge of their homes and families.

- **[National Center for Missing and Exploited Children](#)**

Charles B. Wang International Children's Building  
699 Prince Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3175

**Website:** <http://www.missingkids.com>

**Phone:** 703-224-2150

**Fax:** 703-274-2122

**Hotline: 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678)**

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children is a non-profit organization that works with law enforcement, families and the professionals who serve them on issues related to missing and sexually exploited children.

## State Organizations

- **[Department of Children's Services](#)**

USB Tower, 315  
Deaderick, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Nashville, TN 37243

**Website:** <https://www.tn.gov/dcs>

**Phone:** 615-741-9701

- **[Child Custody and Divorce Resources for Tennessee](#)**

**Website:** <http://www.custodysource.com/tn~1.htm>

Online listing of resources for people involved in child custody disputes or divorce.

- **[Childhelp Foster Family Agency of East Tennessee](#)**

**Website:** <https://www.childhelp.org/foster-adoptive-care-services/foster-family-agency-of-east-tennessee/>

**Phone:** 865-637-1753

**Fax:** 865-573-9673

**E-mail:** [hnystrom@childhelp.org](mailto:hnystrom@childhelp.org)

Childhelp Foster Family Agency provides foster family certification, case management, free foster family training, crisis intervention and respite services.

- **[Childhelp Children's Center of East Tennessee](#)**

**Website:** <https://www.childhelp.org/advocacy-centers/childrens-center-of-east-tennessee/>

**Phone:** 865-637-1753

**E-mail:** [hnystrom@childhelp.org](mailto:hnystrom@childhelp.org)

Childhelp Children's Center serves victims of child abuse and neglect through advocacy, treatment and investigation services.

- **[Ombudsman for Children and Families Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth](#)**

Andrew Jackson Building, 9th Floor  
502 Deaderick Street

Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0800

**Website:** <https://www.childhelp.org/advocacy-centers/childrens-center-of-east-tennessee/>

**Phone:** 615-532-1572 or 800-264-0904

**E-mail:** [Gerald.Papica@tn.gov](mailto:Gerald.Papica@tn.gov)

The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth's (TCCY) Ombudsman Program is a third party resolution mechanism for children in the custody of the Department of Children's Services, Child Protective Services, kinship care/relative caregiver program, and DCS foster parent issues.

- **[Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee](#)**

Nashville

4721 Trousdale Drive, Suite 201

Nashville, TN 37220

**Phone:** 615- 383-099

**Fax:** 615-383-0994



P.O. Box 120160, Nashville, TN 37212

Tel: 615.320.7142

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**Chattanooga**

2300 Bailey Avenue  
Chattanooga, TN 37404  
**Phone:** 423-933-2651  
**Fax:** 423-629-4653

**East Tennessee**

320 Robertsville Rd.  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830  
**Phone:** 865-483-7377  
**Fax:** 865-220-5632

**Website:** <https://www.childhelp.org/advocacy-centers/childrens-center-of-east-tennessee/>

Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee is a non-profit that works with parents, professionals and communities to provide education, resources and services to strengthen families.



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