

## Information for the parents of children who are in the custody of OCS

### Where will your child grow up?

Your child needs:

- to be safe
- food, clothing, and a home
- care by a doctor and dentist
- to spend time with kids their own age, doing things to make them healthy
- an ongoing, positive relationship with a caring adult
- parents and family



- OCS helps children who are abused or neglected.
- The law says you must keep your children safe and healthy.
- If you cannot provide safe care for your children, OCS may become involved. Your child may go to foster care for a while.
- Your children must not stay in foster care too long. Foster care is temporary.
- In most cases, OCS will work with you to return your children home.
- A back-up plan must be developed in case your children cannot return home safely.
- You can work with OCS on this plan.
- A judge and Citizen Review Board will review the plan.
- The law gives you as little as 12 months - sometimes less - to show that you can safely care for your children.
- The court will review the progress you have made and decide where your children will live.
- All children need safe, permanent homes.
- Kid's Can't Wait.
- Your Child's Future Depends on You
- You must act quickly to make positive changes in your life.
- Your children need regular contact with you.
- This can include visits, phone calls, cards, and letters.
- You can find help in many places -- family, church, OCS, community agencies, neighbors.
- Please work with OCS to ensure that your child grows up in a safe, caring family.
- OCS is required by state law (Title 47) to protect children from abuse or neglect.
- If you have a dispute with OCS actions, you can initiate a grievance by contacting the supervisor in charge of the case.