



What is the Children's Justice Initiative (CJI)?

The CJI is Minnesota's [Court Improvement Program](#) through the Children's Bureau. It is a collaboration between the Minnesota Judicial Branch, the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS), and the Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF).

CJI works closely with local juvenile courts, court administrators, social services agencies, county attorneys, guardians ad litem, attorneys for parents and children, tribes, and other key stakeholders across Minnesota's 87 counties.

Our Mission

Improve outcomes for children who have experienced abuse or neglect by collaborating with court partners to strengthen legal representation and hearing quality, enhance the engagement of families in court proceedings, and effectively promote child safety and well-being.

Strategic Priorities of the Children's Justice Initiative

When identifying and implementing improvements, the goal is for all stakeholders to operate "through the eyes of the child" to achieve child safety, permanency, and well-being guided by the strategic priorities:

- Equitable outcomes for children of all races and cultures
- Court proceedings that promote safe, stable, timely families for children
- Strong, collaborative CJI leadership and teams
- Effective CJI program administration

Children in Need of Protection or Services (CHIPS) Cases

CHIPS actions are court cases that involve the health, safety and welfare of children. Children can be involved in CHIPS because they have been abused, neglected, truant, a runaway, or otherwise need protection or services. Cases are typically filed by the county to protect children and to deliver services so children can be safe at home or, if children cannot be home and must be in foster care, so they can safely return home. If services do not resolve the issues, children may be permanently placed away from the care of their parents.

Data Facts

Out of home placement data information for Minnesota can be found on [DCYF's Data Dashboard](#).

Email cji@courts.state.mn.us or visit www.mncourts.gov/Help-Topics/CJI.aspx for more information.