

We look forward to assisting you in providing outstanding service to the children and families of Illinois. For more information, please contact:

Chief of Nursing Services
100 W. Randolph, Chicago, IL 60601
312-814-5693

Child Welfare Nurse Specialists can be reached at the following DCFS offices:

Cook County:

- 6201 S. Emerald
Chicago, IL 60621
773-371-6000
- 3518 W. Division
Chicago, IL 60651
773-292-7700
- 1911 S. Indiana
Chicago, IL 60616
312-808-5000
**Spanish-Speaking and HIV Specialists are available at this location*
- 1701 First Ave.
Maywood, IL 60153
708-338-6600

Northern Region:

- 8 E. Galena Blvd., Suite 300
Aurora, IL 60506
630-801-3400
- 200 S. Wyman, Floor 2
Rockford, IL 61101
815-987-7640

Central Region:

- 500 42nd St., Suite 5
Rock Island, IL 61201
309-794-3500
- 2001 N.E. Jefferson
Peoria, IL 61603
309-671-7900
- 2900 N. Oakland Ave, B
Decatur, IL 62526
217-875-6750
- 521 S. 11th St.
Springfield, IL 62703
217-782-4000
- 46 N. Central Park Plaza
Jacksonville, IL 62650
217-479-4800

Southern Region:

- 1407 Vaughn Rd.
Wood River, IL 62095
618-259-8400
- 1220 Centreville Ave.
Belleville, IL 62220
618-257-7500
- 321A Withers Dr.
Mount Vernon, IL 62864
618-244-8400



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Child Welfare Nurse Specialists: *Clinical Partners in Child Welfare*



Setting standards in Illinois child welfare

Illinois is one of the first states to recognize the importance of health related interventions for children with special health care needs served by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

Who we are

A Child Welfare Nurse Specialist (CWNS), also referred to as a “DCFS Regional Nurse”, is an Illinois licensed Registered Professional Nurse who functions as a health care services consultant, advocate, and liaison.

What we do

A CWNS provides competent health-related consultative services. These include health assessments, health environmental safety assessments, and recommendation and evaluation for children with special health care needs. A CWNS conducts intermittent well-being checks for children with special health care needs living in skilled and residential placement facilities. A CWNS also participates in monthly child protection meetings at various hospitals and child advocacy centers.

When to request a referral

A referral may be requested for the following reasons (list not all-inclusive):

- Consulting regarding medication,

- disease etiology, assessment and/or identification of possible resources
- Participation in staffing/CAYIT
- Environmental health assessments: home/school; and hospital discharge assessments
- Verifying compliance with health care providers
- Assessment and evaluation of appropriate placement of children with special health care needs
- Provide clarity concerning the consent procedure (DNR, transplants, etc.)
- Assist in coordination of transportation for a child with special health care needs
- Acts as a liaison with other state health agencies

Types of referrals

- **Emergency Referral:** Protective custody situations involving children with special health care needs, as well as any situation involving a child with unmet health care needs who may or may not be subject to the investigation
- **Formal Nursing Referral:** Health-related consultation involving children with special health care needs as well as cases of suspected medical abuse/neglect. Assessment, evaluation and client-specific health recommendations will be provided.
- **Differential Response Referral:** Health related consultation on all alternative track responses involving allegations of medical neglect. Client specific health

recommendations will be provided.

- **Casual Inquiry:** requests for a quick source of medical information
- **Notification Only:** advising of a status change within a specific medical case

Centralized nursing referral process

- Complete the DCFS Regional Nurse Referral Form, (CFS 531, SACWIS template)
- E-mail the completed form via Outlook to “nurseref” as an attachment or fax to 866-531-1459 if not on Outlook
- The Chief of Nursing Services will review all referrals and make assignment to a CWNS
- The CWNS will make contact with the referring source within 5 days of receipt of the referral to gather needed information to complete assessment and make recommendations
- The CWNS will make contact with the referring source within 12 hours of receipt of the **EMERGENCY** referral to gather needed information to complete assessment and make recommendations
- Documentation of initial assessment and subsequent visits will be noted on SACWIS. DCP documentation will be provided to the caseworker and supervisor.

For more information, refer to Policy Transmittal 2008.09: Nursing Consultative Services for Children with Special Health Care Needs

The DCFS mission is to protect children from abuse and/or neglect and to increase families' capacity to safely care for them. We achieve this by helping families maintain a safe and positive home environment, ensuring safety, well-being and permanency for their children.