



Family Services Division

We work with families and communities to make sure children and youth are safe, their basic needs are met and families are supported. *Because families matter!*

Our work is guided by these core values:

Safety

Children are safe from abuse, neglect and risk of harm.

Permanence

Children have nurturing families who are legally committed to them and lasting relationships with other caring adults.

Well-Being

Children do well in their families, schools and communities.

Law Abidance

Youth are free from delinquent behavior.

Family Services is Vermont's child welfare and youth justice agency.

What we believe:

1. Children have the right to be safe
2. Families have both challenges and strengths (*risk & safety factors*)
3. Everyone can grow and change
4. Families know their situations best
5. Children should only be separated from their parents/guardians when it's necessary to keep them safe
6. When children need out-of-home care, we should first consider extended family members and friends
7. Success is more likely when we involve extended family members and friends in the process — early on
8. For real change to occur, we must work cooperatively with families, share responsibility and hold each other accountable
9. Each family's cultural, ethnic and spiritual diversity deserves respect