



How long will my family work with the Intact Family worker?

It all depends on you! Your family's needs, strengths, progress, safety and risks are continuously being evaluated to determine the length of time a service case needs to be open. Families can voluntarily withdraw from the program at any time. Although Intact Family Services are voluntary, court intervention could occur if children remain unsafe or at continued risk. If cases are court involved, the court system will determine the length of time your family service case needs to remain open.

Why should my family participate?

- To ensure the safety of the children
- To become a part of a team
- To make connections to ongoing services
- To work on building self-reliance and family strengths
- To create lasting, positive change



Illinois Department of
DCFS
Children & Family Services

Families Come First



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Intact Family Services Program



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What is the Intact Family Services Program?

The Intact Family Services program is designed to work with at-risk families who have been referred for continuing assistance and monitoring following a child abuse or neglect investigation with the Department of Children and Family Services. There are two types of family referrals: voluntary and involuntary (court ordered).

The goals of the program are:

- To enable children to remain safely at home
- To ensure the safety, well-being and continued healthy development of children
- To make reasonable efforts to keep families together
- To address the issues that place your children at risk
- To avoid having children separated from their family and community in an out-of-home placement

How does the program work?

A caseworker will help your family develop a short-term, agreed upon plan to make the changes that will help you keep your children safe. Many families need help with making behavioral changes. Issues such as domestic violence, substance abuse, mental health issues and housing can place children at risk of harm. Services, such as counseling, domestic violence prevention, substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, parenting coaching/classes or housing can be provided to help you in the identified areas where change is needed.

What can you expect when involved with Intact Family Services?

For the first 45 days, an Intact Family worker will come to your home every week to work with you and your family. The worker will ask you about the changes you want to make while assessing those safety and risk factors that led to your family referral.

- The Intact worker will work with your family to develop a written services plan, outlining your goals and the ways to work on achieving them together.
- The Intact worker will assist you with referrals to supportive services to make connections that can help you with your behavioral changes.
- The Intact worker will maintain close contact with the service providers to monitor your attendance, obtain progress reports and ensure you are benefiting from the services so that you can develop and use the changes you have made.

After the first 45 days, your Intact worker will make unannounced visits and may decrease the number of contacts with you, but continue to monitor your family's growth and change. The amount of contact that your family has with the Intact worker will depend on the seriousness of the safety issues and risk to your children. As you resolve the issues that placed your children at risk, your worker and his or her supervisor can decrease the number of visits you need, but you will see your worker at least twice per month. Once risk is reduced and children can be maintained safely at home, you and your worker can discuss closing your family service case.

