



**Main Office:** 222 East Central Parkway • Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-1225  
**Neighborhood Center:** 237 Wm. Howard Taft • Cincinnati, Ohio 45219  
**General Information:** (513) 946-1000  
**General Information TDD:** (513) 946-1295  
**FAX:** (513) 946-2250  
[www.hcifs.org](http://www.hcifs.org)  
[www.hcadopt.org](http://www.hcadopt.org)  
[www.hcfoster.org](http://www.hcfoster.org)

**Media Contact:**

Brian Gregg  
Media Spokesperson/Communications Manager  
E-mail: [greggb@jfs.hamilton-co.org](mailto:greggb@jfs.hamilton-co.org)  
Phone: 513-946-1728  
Fax: 513-946-2248

**Online Chat for Public to Learn More About Child Abuse and Neglect**

**Cincinnati (Jan. 12, 2009)** Hamilton County residents with questions about child abuse and neglect can learn more in an online chat by the Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services.

Manager Scott Boone will answer questions about what constitutes child abuse and neglect, what to do if you suspect it, what services the county provides in abuse situations, the county's 241-KIDS child abuse hotline and much more. One in 12 county children – 17, 000 -- were involved with the Department of Job and Family Services' Children's Services Division in 2007 and the county takes more than 6,000 reports of abuse and neglect each year.

The chat will be held from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14. Residents can participate in the chat by clicking on a link that will be posted on [www.hcifs.org](http://www.hcifs.org) prior to the 10 a.m. start. Also, an e-mail will be sent to subscribers to the [HCJFS Update](#) newsletter with a link to the chat area. To sign up for the newsletter, visit [www.hcifs.org](http://www.hcifs.org).

The chat is another attempt by the Department of Job and Family Services, which handles child support collection, child welfare and public assistance programs, to be more accessible and open to its consumers and the public at large. It follows recent moves such as stationing employees in neighborhood non-profits for easier access to services and establishing a Speaker's Bureau to help educate the public on how the agency does business.

"We serve hundreds of thousands of people in this county each year and we're always trying creative ways to reach out to them," said Moira Weir, director of the department. "Our goal is to be accessible, responsive and accountable."

**About Hamilton County's Department of Job and Family Services**

The Department of Job and Family Services administers federal, state and local programs for those in need. The Department helps with local child protection, elderly protection, child care, child support enforcement, workforce development, cash assistance, food stamp disbursement and Medicaid disbursement. Servicing Hamilton County since 1947, the Department helps hundreds of thousands each year and is accredited by the Council on Accreditation, an international, independent, not-for-profit child and family service accrediting organization.