

Family Preservation Services

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of Christian Services for Children in Alabama is to show the love of Christ by providing counseling, intervention and support to children and families.

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Christian Services for
Children in Alabama, Inc.

CHRISTIAN SERVICES FOR CHILDREN IN AL (CSCA) has been providing services to area children, youth and families since 1991. CSCA was founded on the belief that all children have the right to be served in their own communities.

CSCA is centrally located in Selma, and provides services to families in Dallas, Autauga, Chilton, Marengo, Perry and Wilcox counties.

CSCA believes there is power when one feels encouraged and supported during difficult times.



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JUST WHAT IS “FAMILY PRESERVATION”?

- The term, Family Preservation, has a very specific meaning with an expectance of hope that your child will remain safely in your home. If your child has been temporarily removed, the expectance is for your child to be returned without an unnecessary long delay.
- The time period of the intervention is typically short—ranging four to twelve weeks. Depending on the needs of your family, intervention may be intense. This means frequent visits in your home.
- The Family Preservation Specialist spends time in your home. This allows the specialist to see you and your family in action. While your family is experiencing difficulty, you don’t have the added stressor of making arrangements to go to the specialist’s office.
- The Family Preservation Specialists are trained to begin with the concerns as expressed by you.

- The Family Preservation Specialists have educational background in several different approaches to help you sort out what is the best outcome for your family.
- The Family Preservation Specialists help families to find available community resources, i.e., day care, job training, special education services, housing, transportation and occasional financial assistance for emergency utilities.
- The Family Preservation Specialists teach practical skills including budget planning, conflict resolution, negotiation, compromise, problem solving, assertive discipline, communication skills and advocacy skills.

“Because Emergencies Don’t Wait”

ALL REFERRALS for Family Preservation Services, known as Family Outcome-Centered Unification Services (FOCUS), are made by the County Department of Human Resources. Services are based on the following principles:

- At least one child in the family must be at risk of placement away from the home.
- At least one parent or legal guardian must be willing to participate .



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- Referral response is as soon as possible within 24 hours.
- Acceptance is on first come, first served basis.
- Flexible services include evenings and weekends (as needed).
- Specialists are on call 24 hours a day.