

Since January 2012 SCDSS has had a three-tiered plan for responding to reports of abuse or neglect of children in South Carolina: (1) if the report alleges that the safety of the child(ren) is at risk, DSS conducts an investigation, as labeled below; (2) if the report sounds like the family needs support to ensure the well-being of the children but the SAFETY of the child(ren) is NOT compromised, the report is referred to a "Community-Based Preventive Service," as labeled below; and (3) if the report does not indicate that the safety or well-being of the child is at risk or if the report needs to be referred to a different agency because the allegation is not under the legal jurisdiction of DSS, the report is "Screened out (No investigation needed)/Other." DSS intake staff use the structured Appropriate Response Tool to assess the safety and risk level for all the children in the home to guide them in determining which of the 3 options is best for each report to ensure the safety and well-being of all the children in the reported family.

