



# Learn more about your rights and how to protect your family.



## Have you been contacted by ACS (the New York City Administration for Children's Services)?

In New York City, ACS handles reports of child neglect and abuse. If someone is reported to ACS, they investigate. ACS may talk to your children at school, their teachers, service providers, and doctors.

When you interact with ACS, they write down everything you say or do. That information can be used against you later—and could be a reason they use to remove your children.

If ACS contacts you, reach out to the Center for Family Representation (CFR) at:

✉ [info@cfyny.org](mailto:info@cfyny.org)

☎ 212-691-0950

CFR provides free, confidential legal and social work services to ACS-involved families in parts of Manhattan, the Bronx, Queens, and Staten Island.

# When Speaking with ACS...

- Unless ACS has a court order or search warrant, you have the right to refuse to speak to ACS or let them into your home. If you refuse ACS entry, they will likely continue their investigation. Talk with a lawyer if you do not want to let ACS into your home.
- You are allowed to talk to a lawyer or advocate before you talk to ACS.
- If you have a criminal case, talk with your defense attorney before you talk to ACS.
- You have the right to an interpreter.
- You have the right to preventive services. You can choose to use only the services you think will help your family.
- Answer only the questions ACS asks about the investigation.
- Do not offer any information that isn't about the allegations in your case. (Allegations are statements that accuse a person of doing something wrong.)
- You don't have to talk about private information like your medical history or your personal relationships.
- You do not need to tell ACS your immigration status.



Learn more about ACS investigations and your rights at [cfny.org](http://cfny.org).