

The Social Services Administration is responsible for the development and coordination of its services, for determining the factors that seem to contribute to social and economic problems, and for recommending changes or new programs to meet some of the problems. In carrying out this responsibility, the Social Services Administration calls upon the local social services departments for leadership within their communities and for participation in statewide activities.

The Social Services Administration supervises all public and private institutions that have the care, custody, or control of dependent, abandoned, or neglected children, except those placed under the supervision of another agency. It is authorized to establish a central registry of records for the purpose of locating absent parents of children who are likely, or liable to be, recipients of public assistance or foster care. The Social Services Administration administers the child care laws, which regulate placement in Maryland. It licenses agencies and institutions having the care and custody of minors, including agencies giving day care services to children. The Social Services Administration maintains a central registry of reported child abuse cases (Code 1957, Art. 88A, secs. 3, 5A, 13, 17, 19-32A, 46; Art. 16, secs. 67-88; Art. 27, sec. 11A).

The Social Services Administration has responsibility for child support activities for families receiving public assistance. All recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children must assign to the State all rights to support. The Social Services Administration, through local departments of social services, uses local, State, and federal locator services to find absent parents owing such support, and court orders are then established requiring payment to the State. Monies collected through this program are used to reimburse the State and the federal government for assistance costs.

The Social Services Administration also serves as the public agency through which child support payments are channeled. Prior to January 1, 1979, such payments were handled by the Division of Parole and Probation of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services.

Each year before the General Assembly convenes, the State Administration furnishes the Secretary of Human Resources and the Governor with a report of its activities (Code 1957, Art. 88A, sec. 3(g)).

SOCIAL SERVICES STATE AND LOCAL OFFICES

State Administrative Office:

11 South Street
Baltimore 21202

Allegany County

218 Paca Street
Cumberland 21502

Anne Arundel County

Arundel Center
44 Calvert Street
Annapolis 21404

342 South Governor
Ritchie Highway
Glen Burnie 21061

Baltimore City

1510 Guilford Avenue
Baltimore 21202

Baltimore County

Investment Building
620 York Road
Towson 21204

Calvert County

Calvert Executive Plaza
Prince Frederick 20678

Caroline County

Law Building
Denton 21629

Carroll County

95 Carroll Street
Westminster 21157

Cecil County

216 East Pulaski Highway
Elkton 21921

Charles County

8 Kent Avenue
LaPlata 20646

Dorchester County

774 Cambridge Plaza
Route 50
Cambridge 21613