

# Standard Child Abuse and Neglect Legal Procedures in California

**By: Judy Burger**

When someone files a credible report regarding a child in danger, an investigation must be conducted by either a social worker or the police. They will decide if the child appears to be in imminent danger and whether it is necessary to remove the child from his or her home.

Police or the social workers may decide that a child should be placed in temporary foster care for his or her safety if they believe the child was neglected, molested, or abused. The child may be sent to live with a relative, to the other legal parent if the parents do not live together, or to a foster home or shelter.

Once a child is removed from the home, social services should conduct a deeper investigation about the home environment, the parent or other caretakers, and the child. After an investigation, social services will make recommendations regarding what action they consider to be best for the child's safety and personal wellbeing. They may recommend filing a petition in court to have a child declared "dependent."

If you believe you have been wrongfully targeted by social services and need someone on your side to fight for you and your child, seek the help of an experienced family law attorney as soon as possible. A delay could be used against you by social services later.

At the [Law Offices of Judy L. Burger](#), we will aggressively pursue the best outcome possible for you in your divorce or custody proceedings. [Judy L. Burger](#) is known for taking a firm stand in representing clients in high conflict cases in and around the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento areas. Contact us today to learn more about how we can help. Call (415)293-8314 in the San Francisco Bay area or (916)631-1935 in the Sacramento area, or contact us online via our [confidential inquiry form](#)