

CPS - Navigating Troubled Waters
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Each month I receive phone calls from alarmed parents who have learned that they or their children are the focus of a CPS investigation. I also receive phone calls from parents or concerned relatives who inquire as to the consequences of filing a report with CPS.

Child Protective Services (CPS) is an Arizona agency mandated under ARS §8-802 for the protection of children alleged to be abused and neglected. "Alleged" is a very important term, and every allegation of abuse or neglect must be investigated by CPS. While most allegations are ultimately dismissed as unfounded or unsubstantiated after a brief interview with the parents and/or the child, other allegations are in fact substantiated. Once it is determined that a child is indeed at risk of abuse or neglect, CPS can take immediate action. For instance, CPS can perform emergency interventions, such as removing a child from a home when the home environment poses an eminent risk of harm to the child. CPS may also become involved in cases where neither parent is unfit or inappropriate, such as in cases where the child may have special needs or may be so seriously troubled as to be "out of control."

CPS cases involving substantiated claims of child abuse or neglect, or cases where CPS has determined that a parent is unable to meet a child's "special needs," are fraught with potentially far-reaching consequences. If you have questions or concerns about a pending CPS interview or other matter involving CPS, it would be wise to contact an experienced family law attorney to help you navigate these potentially very troubled waters.



Timothy Durkin joined JacksonWhite in 2010, and quickly established himself as a highly effective family law attorney with the perfect balance of assertiveness and compassion. Tim is often complimented for his dedication to professional service, as he works closely with his clients to keep them informed, listen to their needs and involve them in the decision making process.

Tim handles all types of family law, including divorces, paternity actions, child custody, child support, relocation and jurisdiction issues, adoptions, termination of parental rights and parental severance actions, title 8 guardianships, spousal maintenance cases, division of marital property and debts, pre-nuptial agreements, post decree modifications and enforcement of custody and divorce orders, mediation services, grandparent visitation cases, and domestic violence issues. He is licensed to practice law in all Arizona State Courts, as well as the United States District Court, District of Arizona, and serves clients throughout the Phoenix metro area. To read more about what former clients are saying about hiring Tim, or to set up a free consultation, please visit www.jacksonwhitelaw.com/arizona-family-law.

Founded in 1983, JacksonWhite P.C. offers a full -range of services to assist individuals, families and businesses with their legal needs. Since its inception, the Mesa firm has grown steadily to include 22 highly experienced attorneys and over 40 paralegals, legal assistants and staff. At this size, the firm is large enough to offer the efficiency and technical expertise of larger firms, yet small enough to provide clients with individualized, personalized attention. JacksonWhite has multiple offices around the state of Arizona including a Mesa, Casa Grande and Peoria locations. For more information on a specific attorney or area of practice, please visit www.jacksonwhitelaw.com, or www.jacksonwhitelaw.com/arizona-family-law.