

## Unit 5 Web Activity

### Protecting the Children

#### Introduction

One of the purposes of government is to protect the people who cannot protect themselves. The federal government and state governments design programs to protect the elderly, the poor, the sick, and children. How does *your* state government protect children?

This lesson will help you research government resources that are dedicated to children. You will also learn about the department of children's services in your state and compare its resources to others. To complete this lesson, work through the steps listed below.

Step 1: Federal Resources

Step 2: State Resources

Step 3: Private Resources

Step 4: Reflection

#### Step 1: Federal Resources

Visit the Web sites for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and its Children's Bureau. What services for and information about children does this federal agency provide?

[U.S. Department of Health & Human Services](#)

[U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Children's Bureau](#)

[National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information](#) (also part of HHS)

These HHS Web sites provide information about a variety of topics. After visiting all of the HHS Web sites above, determine which one(s) you would go to if you were looking for information about each of the following topics:

- Adoption
- Child abuse
- Foster care
- Recent federal laws about children
- Recent state laws about children
- Health information (immunizations, vaccinations, pregnancy, etc.)
- Safety information

#### Step 2: State Resources

In general, states provide many more services for children than the federal government. Click on the link to your state below to visit your state's department of children's services. (Note: The name of the department varies from state to state, but all have services for children.) Browse your state's site and find the answers to as many of the questions below as possible. You may need to look for a "Frequently Asked Questions," "About Us," or other link that provides general information. Before you begin, find out from your teacher if you should look for answers to specific questions. You may not find answers to every question below.

1. What is the phone number to call to report child abuse? If there is more than one phone number listed, which phone number is for your area? If there is no phone number listed, how can you report abuse of a child?

2. What other information is available about the process for reporting child abuse? For example, can an abuse report be appealed? Who is required by law to report suspected abuse? Take notes on the process in your state.
3. What resources are available to a parent or family whose children have been removed due to allegations of child abuse?
4. What information is available about foster care in your state?
5. How can you collect if someone owes you child support?
6. How does a person become certified to provide childcare?

<a href="#">Alabama</a>	<a href="#">Georgia</a>	<a href="#">Massachusetts</a>	<a href="#">New York</a>	<a href="#">Texas</a>
<a href="#">Alaska</a>	<a href="#">Hawaii</a>	<a href="#">Michigan</a>	<a href="#">North Carolina</a>	<a href="#">Utah</a>
<a href="#">Arizona</a>	<a href="#">Idaho</a>	<a href="#">Minnesota</a>	<a href="#">North Dakota</a>	<a href="#">Vermont</a>
<a href="#">Arkansas</a>	<a href="#">Illinois</a>	<a href="#">Mississippi</a>	<a href="#">Ohio</a>	<a href="#">Virginia</a>
<a href="#">California</a>	<a href="#">Indiana</a>	<a href="#">Missouri</a>	<a href="#">Oklahoma</a>	<a href="#">Washington</a>
<a href="#">Colorado</a>	<a href="#">Iowa</a>	<a href="#">Montana</a>	<a href="#">Oregon</a>	<a href="#">West Virginia</a>
<a href="#">Connecticut</a>	<a href="#">Kansas</a>	<a href="#">Nebraska</a>	<a href="#">Pennsylvania</a>	<a href="#">Wisconsin</a>
<a href="#">Delaware</a>	<a href="#">Kentucky</a>	<a href="#">Nevada</a>	<a href="#">Rhode Island</a>	<a href="#">Wyoming</a>
<a href="#">District of Columbia</a>	<a href="#">Louisiana</a>	<a href="#">New Hampshire</a>	<a href="#">South Carolina</a>	
	<a href="#">Maine</a>	<a href="#">New Jersey</a>	<a href="#">South Dakota</a>	
<a href="#">Florida</a>	<a href="#">Maryland</a>	<a href="#">New Mexico</a>	<a href="#">Tennessee</a>	

### Step 3: Private Resources

In addition to the many federal and state agencies that provide protection to children, there are also many private agencies that work to promote the rights and safety of children. Visit the sites of three of the organizations listed below and identify how they interact with children, families, and state and local governments. In other words, why do they believe that government agencies are not enough to fully protect and provide for the rights of children, and what do they feel that their organizations can do to bridge this gap? (Note: The organizations are listed in alphabetical order, showing no preference for any particular group.) This list is also not intended to represent an exhaustive list of children's advocacy groups, but is simply a sample of different organizations that promote children's rights. You can also choose to research an advocacy group for an issue that interests you, using your favorite search engine.

<a href="#">Center for Law and Education</a>	<a href="#">Children With Disabilities</a>	<a href="#">National Center for Missing and Exploited Children</a>
<a href="#">Child Abuse.com</a>	<a href="#">Children's Defense Fund</a>	<a href="#">National Coalition for Child Protection Reform</a>
<a href="#">Child Abuse.org</a>	<a href="#">Children's Safety Network</a>	<a href="#">Prevent Child Abuse America</a>
<a href="#">Child Abuse Prevention Network</a>	<a href="#">The Future of Children</a>	<a href="#">Sesame Workshop</a>
<a href="#">Child Help USA</a>	<a href="#">International Child Abuse Network</a>	<a href="#">Stand for Children</a>
<a href="#">Children Now</a> (Focuses on California)	<a href="#">National Center for Children in Poverty</a>	<a href="#">UNICEF</a>

**Step 4: Reflection**

Based on what you have learned by visiting federal, state, and private Web sites, what do you think is the most important issue that needs to be addressed regarding children?

Write an essay for your teacher answering this three-part question:

- What resources are available to children and families through federal and state governments?
- How do private organizations add to those resources?
- On what children's issue should the American public's attention be focused most intensively? Why do you believe that this issue is the most critical?