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## **TRAVIS COUNTY CPS BOARD FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

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August 2017

### **Who sits on the Travis County Child Protective Services (CPS) Board?**

Members of the Board must be Travis County residents who are appointed by Travis County Commissioners for 3-year terms. Members volunteer their time and talents to advocate for the protection and well-being of those Travis County children who are in the care of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS).

### **What does the Travis County CPS Board do?**

The Board's primary function is to evaluate expenditure requests and to direct and oversee the use of an annual budget. The funds are allocated from the county's general fund and are to be used to meet the needs of children and families involved in the child welfare system in Travis County.

When families living in Travis County become involved with DFPS, the county plays an integral role in providing services and funds to the children and DFPS. DFPS and Travis County Health and Human Services & Veterans Service have a contract to facilitate federal reimbursement of the county's general funds spent on behalf of children and families involved in the state CPS system.

### **Where does the funding for the Travis County Child Protective Services Board come from?**

Funding is allocated from the county's general fund.

### **When does the Travis County Child Protective Services Board meet?**

The Board meets monthly every third Tuesday.

### **Why does Travis County have a Child Protective Services Board?**

State law<sup>1</sup> allows the commissioners court of a county to appoint a child welfare board for the county. The board shall provide coordinated state and local public

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<sup>1</sup> [Texas Family Code Section 264.005](#)

welfare services for children and their families. The board shall also coordinate the use of federal, state, and local funds for these services.

### **How can I help the Travis County Child Protective Services Board?**

The Travis County CPS Board established and operates a small non-profit corporation, Children's Protective Assistance, Inc. dba Capital Area Safe Kids Fund. The fund is used to raise charitable dollars to support children, families, and CPS. Monetary donations of any size are welcome and go directly to help Travis County children in foster care or who have been or are at risk of child abuse or neglect. Donors may write a check to Safe Kids Fund and will receive a written acknowledgment for their tax-deductible contribution.

Other benefits of the fund are flexibility and quickness. The fund is able to pay for needed items that the state or Travis County cannot or will not fund. The fund can make emergency payments or pay items more quickly than government payments can be made. This helps bring services to children or families more quickly.

Donations to the Travis County CPS Board can be sent to:

Children's Protective Assistance, Inc.  
d.b.a. Capital Area Safe Kids Fund  
P. O. Box 1792  
Austin, Texas 78767-1792

In the past, donated funds have provided assistance to local, at-risk children in the form of mental health assessments, services for special needs children such as summer camps and college scholarships for foster children, also, the fund helped by paying fees required of adoptive and foster parents and has purchased beds to help relatives assume the responsibility of taking custody of the children of their relatives.

### **Contact information**

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