

Comparison of Investigation and Assessment Pathways in States with Differential Response (DR):ⁱ

	Investigation	Assessment
<i>Focus</i>	Did abuse occur? Who was responsible? What steps are needed to assure safety?	What underlying issues may jeopardize child safety? What family strengths and resources exist?
<i>Goal</i>	Goal to determine “findings” and identify perpetrators and victims.	Goal to engage parents, extended family and community partners in services that address family needs.
<i>Disposition</i>	A determination of whether to substantiate abuse or neglect must be made.	There is typically no requirement to make a formal determination of whether maltreatment occurred.
<i>Central Registry</i>	Perpetrators are entered into central registry.	Alleged perpetrators are not entered into central registry.
<i>Services</i>	If the case is opened for services a case plan is written and services provided. Services may be court ordered.	Voluntary services are offered to the family, and if parents do not participate the case is either closed or response is switched to investigation.

ⁱ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families/Children's Bureau (2008). Differential Response to Reports of Child Abuse and Neglect. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office. Retrieved from http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/issue_briefs/differential_response/differential_responsea.cfm



Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children
116 Pine Street, Suite 430
Harrisburg, PA 17101
717-236-5680

www.papartnerships.org