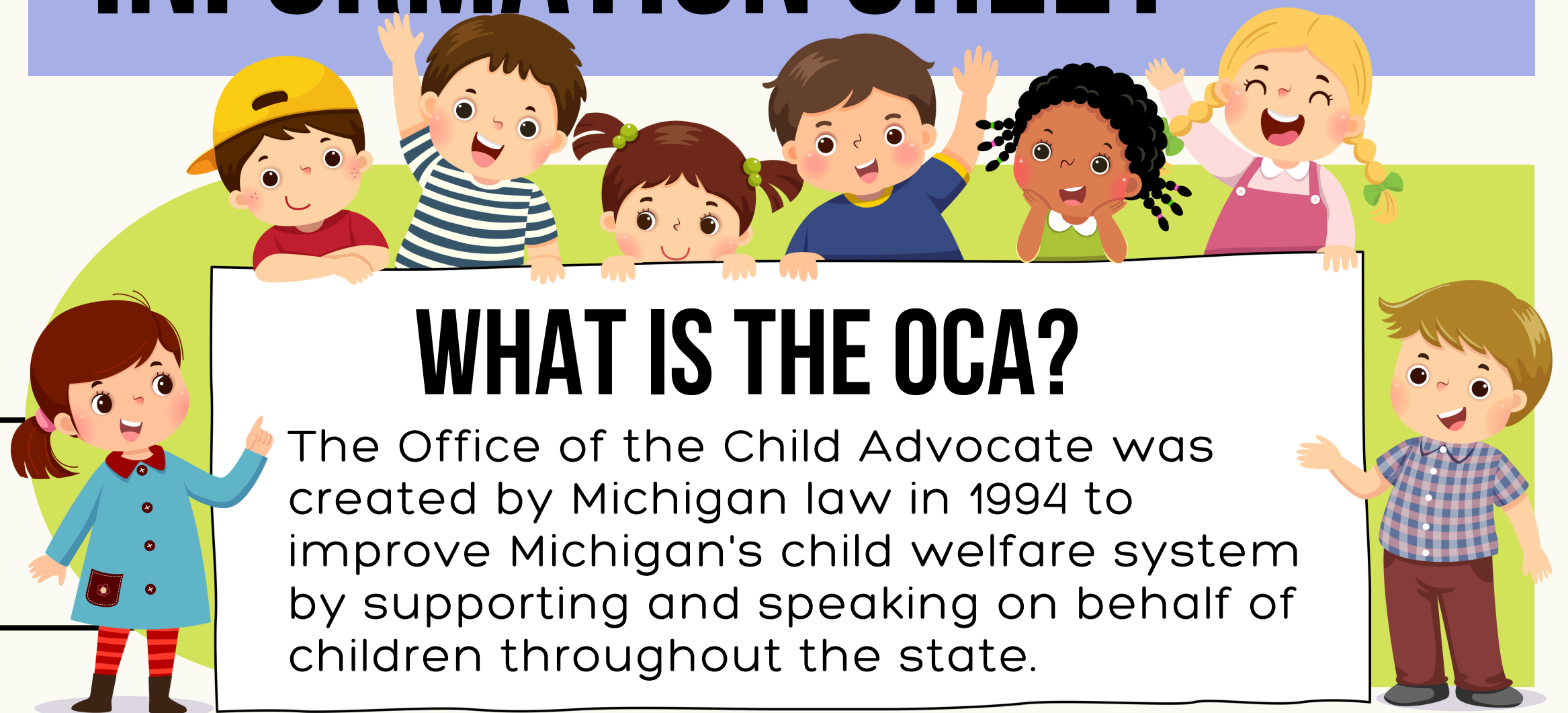


OFFICE OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE

OCA

INFORMATION SHEET



WHAT IS THE OCA?

The Office of the Child Advocate was created by Michigan law in 1994 to improve Michigan's child welfare system by supporting and speaking on behalf of children throughout the state.

WHAT DOES THE OCA DO?

The OCA works to make the child welfare system better and helps people understand how it works. The Child Advocate may investigate a problem if they are asked to, and if the rules allow them to.

WHO DOES THE OCA HELP?

Anyone can request the help of the OCA including: Children who are able to make a report, parents, guardians, legal and legislative representatives, the Governor, and mandatory reporters.



WHAT DOES THE OCA INVESTIGATE?

The OCA can investigate situations where it's believed that the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) or a private agency is not following rules, laws, policies, or procedures, and if those rules and policies are in the best interest of the child.

HOW DO YOU ASK FOR OCA HELP?

You can ask the OCA for help by filling out our online form or calling our office.

Before you do, try to solve the problem with the agency handling your case. Start by talking to your caseworker. If that doesn't work, talk to their supervisor, program manager, or the agency director.

CONTACT THE OCA

Online:
www.michigan.gov/oca

By Phone:
1.800.MICH.FAM or 517.241.4100



REPORT CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT



If you suspect someone is abusing or neglecting a child, call
911 or 855-444-3911
anytime, day or night.

More about the



The OCA is an independent, impartial state agency with credible review processes. The Office of the Child Advocate operates with integrity, valuing diversity and inclusivity. We foster a supportive community where every voice is heard and respected. Through empathy, we create a safe environment, promoting the rights and well-being of all children in the child welfare system.

WHAT AUTHORITY DOES THE OCA HAVE?

The Legislature gave the OCA broad investigative authority regarding the actions of Child Protective Services, Foster Care, Adoption and Child Caring Institutions.

OUR GOALS

- Conduct independent, impartial investigations
- Make impactful recommendations
- Promote transparency in the child welfare system

OUR MISSION & VISION

Our mission is to improve Michigan's child welfare system by raising awareness, advocating for changes, educating the public, and conducting thorough reviews to make recommendations for improvement.

Our vision is to support and speak on behalf of children, with the aim of making a positive impact on Michigan's child welfare system.

This is accomplished through advocacy, review and recommendation, and public education regarding Michigan's child welfare programs.

HOW WE SERVE

ADVOCATE

- Speak on behalf of children
- Raise awareness of issues facing Michigan's child welfare system

INVESTIGATE

- Conduct preliminary and full investigations
- Determine if recommendations are needed

EDUCATE

- Increase compliance in the child welfare programs through education
- Provide information to families