

## Vision, Mission, Values and Goals of the Department of Children's Services

The Department of Children's Services provides a full range of services to children in, and at risk of, state custody and to their families. The Department is responsible for child protective services, foster care, adoptions, programs for delinquent youth, probation, aftercare, treatment and rehabilitation programs for youth, and licensing for all child welfare agencies, except for child (day) care agencies and child support.

### Vision

Tennessee will be a place where all children and families can grow in nurturing communities, in safety, in good health, and with hope for the future.

### Mission

The Department of Children's Services, in cooperation with juvenile courts, local communities, schools, and families, will provide timely, appropriate, and cost-effective services for children in state custody and at risk of custody, so these children can strive to reach their full potential as productive, competent, and healthy adults.

### Values

The Department of Children's Services is committed to ethical behavior as represented by the following values:

**Respect:** Begins by showing others the same courtesy that we would want to be shown toward ourselves. But it is more: It means recognizing the differences among us and having the internal strength to accept that the differences will always exist, and then appreciating that others may have different views. Showing respect begins with seeking to understand another's point of view, and only afterwards seeking to be understood.

**Integrity:** Begins by being honest and truthful to ourselves so that others will see that we mean what we say. How we act when no one is looking, or no one knows, says a great deal about our level of integrity.

**Accountability:** Begins by taking ownership of our actions. We accept criticism of our behavior as easily and with as much appreciation as we accept praise.