

DORCHESTER COUNTY SAFE BABIES COURT

Improving lives for infants
and toddlers in child
welfare.

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Why it matters.

Every seven minutes in the U.S. an infant or toddler is removed from his or her home due to abuse or neglect. 28.5% of maltreatment victims are under the age of three. Many of these same children experience further trauma in the child welfare system, often through lengthy separations from family and/or multiple foster placements.

What we do.

Safe Babies Court ignites collective action in local communities to strengthen families experiencing extreme hardships and meet the urgent needs of infants and toddlers who are under court jurisdiction and/or in foster care.

Our approach.

Led by the judges who oversee child maltreatment cases, this collaborative approach offers:

- Targeted/timely services
- Focus on family strengths
- Frequent family team meetings and court hearings
- Family-specific interventions

Outcomes:

Children exit the foster care system 8 months faster.

No recurrence of maltreatment within 12 months for 99% of children.

Repeat child maltreatment rate of .7%; compared to 9.1% nationally.

Over \$14,000 of public savings per family served.

83% of children reach permanency within 12 months.