A. BRIEF OVERVIEW OF AGENCY SETTING
CFSD administers programs to protect children from abuse, neglect and abandonment. The division works with communities and providers to support the strengths of families to increase their ability to nurture and provide for their children. The division provides child protective services (including investigatory services, emergency protective services, voluntary protective services, court-ordered protective services and permanency services) to children and families; licenses family foster homes, child placing agencies and adoption agencies; and provides adoption services to children in the custody of the State of Montana. The division has three bureaus and five field regions. (www.dphhs.mt.gov/2007leg/cfsd/pdf)

B. DESCRIPTION OF CLIENT GROUP
Families of abused and neglected children.

C. LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES
Students will get hands-on practicum experience with investigations and intervention caseloads, exposure to the legal system, therapeutic services within the community and throughout the state, placement of children in foster care, adoption process, agencies structure, state and community trainings in the area of child abuse and neglect.

D. EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS
- Commitment to professionalism in a learning environment
- Ability to be a team player with a strong, independent work ethic
- Comfortable with accepting constructive feedback
- Insight into personal triggers in a periodically stressful setting
- Strength-based approach with multi-culture clientele