

**232.81 Complaint.**

1. Any person having knowledge of the circumstances may file a complaint with the person or agency designated by the court to perform intake duties alleging that a child is a child in need of assistance.

2. Upon receipt of a complaint, the court may request the department, juvenile probation office, or other authorized agency or individual to conduct a preliminary investigation of the complaint to determine if further action should be taken.

3. A petition alleging the child to be a child in need of assistance may be filed pursuant to [section 232.87](#) provided the allegations of the complaint, if proven, are sufficient to establish the court's jurisdiction and the filing is in the best interests of the child.

[SS15, §254-a15; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §3621; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, §232.5; C71, 73, 75, 77, §232.3; C79, 81, §232.81]

[83 Acts, ch 96, §157, 159; 2011 Acts, ch 98, §6; 2023 Acts, ch 19, §613](#)

Referred to in [§232.21, 232.83](#)

Subsection 2 amended