

Overview of the SCAN Policies Database

The State Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) Policies Database compiles data on the definitions and policies that states use in their surveillance of child maltreatment, along with data on associated risk and protective factors. The SCAN Policies Database is funded by the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation in collaboration with the Children's Bureau in the Administration for Children and Families at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The project team is led by Mathematica in partnership with Child Trends.

The project's purpose is to review and compile information from states' definitions and policies, to create a database of those definitions and policies (the SCAN Policies Database) that can be used for analysis. The database is a resource for researchers, analysts, and others who are interested in examining differences between states in their definitions and policies on child maltreatment.

Content

The scope of the SCAN Policies Database includes information about state definitions and policies related to child abuse and neglect for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. This information represents data collected, reviewed, and verified between May 2019 and July 2020. The data reflect the state definitions and policies for the calendar year 2019. The scope of topics in the SCAN Policies Database includes states' definitions of child abuse and neglect as well as information about policies related to reporting, screening, and investigating child maltreatment. Key aspects of the child welfare systems' response and context are also included.

The content in the database is organized into six domains. The state profiles, codebook, data collection protocol, and data file are also organized by these domains. In the protocol, each question is named with a prefix that identifies its associated domain. The six domains are listed below, with the identifying protocol number prefix.

| Domain | Question prefix |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Definitions | D |
| Reporting | R |
| Screening | S |
| Investigation | I |
| Child welfare response | W |
| Child welfare system context | C |

State Profile

This SCAN Policies Database state profile serves as a summary of the information collected about the definitions and policies for the identified state. Each profile is organized by topical domains, which contain a set of tables that depict the state's information for each variable within that domain.

This information was gathered through a document collection, review, and coding process conducted by the SCAN Policies Database team. Input from states on data collection was obtained through a confirmation and verification process. More information about the SCAN Policies Database data collection procedures can be found in the data user's guide and data collection protocol which are accessible from the Data Use Resources page <https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/data-use-resources>.

The state profile presents responses for each variable with "yes," "no," "unknown," or other response as appropriate. The response of "unknown" was used for topics that could not be located from the state's available resources or verified with the state. In some cases, "logical skip" was used when a question was not applicable to a particular state given a related response on a preceding question.

Data use resources

Several data use resources are available to support users of the SCAN Policies Database:

- **Data user's guide:** The guide has detailed information about the data set, including the process used to collect and review the data, the scope of information included in the data set, guidance on using the data, such as how to link the data with other data sources; and notes about specific topics. This data user's guide also has two appendices. Appendix A provides a glossary of key terms. Appendix B summarizes the decisions made on the scope and variables to include in the SCAN Policies Database after a data quality assessment.
- **Codebook:** The codebook provides information about each variable in the data set, including variable names, labels, definitions, protocol number, variable type, and frequencies. The codebook has two appendices. Appendix A contains supplemental notes that are important for accurately interpreting and using the data. Appendix B is a comprehensive list of all state statutes and policy documentation sources used to collect data for the SCAN Policies Database for each state, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.
- **Data collection protocol:** The protocol has the questions used to collect information about states' statutes and policies as part of the data review and coding process. Appendix A provides a glossary of key terms.

These data use resources can be found on the SCAN Policies Database website (<https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/data-use-resources>) or from National Data Archive for Child Abuse and Neglect (NDACAN) (<https://www.ndacan.acf.hhs.gov/>).

More Information

More information about the SCAN Policies Database can be found at <https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com>. General inquiries can be submitted to SCANPoliciesDatabase@mathematica-mpr.com.

State Identifying Information

Table I.A. State identifying information

| | Response |
|--|-----------|
| a. State abbreviation | CT |
| b. State Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) code | 09 |
| c. Census region code | Northeast |
| d. State verified coding of information | Yes |
| e. State confirmed documents reviewed | Yes |
| f. State definitions and policies for calendar year | 2019 |

Domain D: Definitions of child maltreatment

Table II.A. State's definition of child maltreatment

| | Response |
|---|---|
| 1. Types of maltreatment included in state definition | |
| a. Physical abuse | Yes |
| b. Excessive corporal punishment | Yes |
| c. Sexual abuse | Yes |
| d. Emotional maltreatment | Yes |
| e. Neglect | Yes |
| f. Inadequate clothing | Yes |
| g. Inadequate shelter | Yes |
| h. Malnourishment, inadequate food | Yes |
| i. Medical neglect, inadequate medical care | Yes |
| j. Failure-to-thrive | Yes |
| k. Educational neglect | Yes |
| l. Abandonment | Yes |
| m. Injurious environment. Likelihood of harm to child's health, physical well-being | Yes |
| n. Drug Lab. Child present within structure where methamphetamine is being created | No |
| o. Inadequate supervision. Failure to meet parent or caretaker responsibilities | Yes |
| p. Drug or alcohol misuse. Parental drug or alcohol misuse causing harm to child | Yes |
| q. Prenatal exposure to drugs or alcohol | Yes |
| r. Illicit substance. Illegally providing a controlled substance to a child | Yes |
| s. Human trafficking, involuntary servitude, sexual servitude | Yes |
| t. Female genital mutilation | No |
| u. Shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma | Yes |
| v. Failure to protect. Failure to protect from harm | No |
| w. Domestic violence. Exposure to domestic violence | Yes |
| x. Factitious disorder by proxy | No |
| y. Institutional abuse/neglect | No |
| z. Other definition (specify) | Yes - Whose home cannot provide the specialized care that the physical, emotional, or mental condition of the child requires |
| 2. Subtypes of maltreatment included in state definition | |
| a. Subtypes of maltreatment considered abuse | Abuse includes malnutrition, sexual molestation or exploitation, deprivation of necessities, emotional maltreatment, and cruel punishment |

Table II.A (continued)

| | Response |
|--|---|
| b. Subtypes of maltreatment considered neglect | Neglect includes abandonment, living in an injurious environment, medical neglect, educational neglect, emotional neglect, and moral neglect |
| c. Subtypes of maltreatment considered other than abuse or neglect | Not applicable |
| 3. Level of harm included in state's definition of child maltreatment | |
| a. Inflicts harm | Yes |
| b. Imminent danger or substantial risk of harm | Yes |
| 4. Differences in level of harm included in state's definition of child maltreatment by type of maltreatment | No |
| 5. Type of harm or injury specified in state's definition of child maltreatment | |
| a. Death, bodily injury, impairment of physical condition | Yes |
| b. Impairment of mental or emotional condition | Yes |
| c. Harmful environment, conditions | Yes |
| d. Type of harm or injury not specified | Yes |
| e. Other (specify) | No |
| 6. Variation in extent of injury or harm by maltreatment type in the state's definition of child maltreatment | Yes - Definition of abuse outlines the types of injuries, (i.e., physical injury or injuries other than by accidental means, injuries that are at variance with the history given of them, conditions that result in malnutrition, emotional maltreatment, etc.); Definitions of a neglected child and an uncared for child speak to conditions (i.e., being denied proper care, being in a home that cannot provide specialized care, living in specified conditions, etc.), but the type of injury or harm is not specified |
| 7. Perpetrator identified as part of state's definition of child maltreatment | Yes |
| 8. Types of perpetrators specified as part of state's definition of child maltreatment | |
| a. Any adult | No |
| b. Parent | Yes |
| c. Guardian | Yes |
| d. Caregiver/caretaker | No |
| e. Family member/parent paramour | No |
| f. Household member | No |
| g. Person responsible for child | Yes |
| h. Other (specify) | Yes - Person who is permitted to have personal interaction with a child |

Table II.A (continued)

| | Response |
|---|--|
| 9. Types of perpetrators vary by type of maltreatment | No |
| 10. Explanation of variation in types of perpetrator by maltreatment type | Not applicable |
| 11. Child age included in definition of child maltreatment | Yes |
| 12. Specific child age in definition of child maltreatment | Under age 18 and up to 21 if in the care of the agency |
| 13. Variability of child age by type of maltreatment | No |

Table II.B. Child maltreatment definition exemptions

| | Response: Yes/No/Unknown |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Exemption included in state's definition of child maltreatment | |
| a. Financial issues, financial inability to provide for a child | Yes |
| b. Discipline, physical discipline as long as it is reasonable and causes no bodily injury to the child | Yes |
| c. Safe haven exemption, newborn relinquished or abandoned in accordance with infant safe haven laws | Yes |
| d. Infant testing positive drugs – medical, newborn with positive test for controlled substance as a result of parent's medical treatment | No |
| e. Religious observance, parent relies on spiritual or religious forms of medical treatment | Yes |
| f. Other exemption (specify) | No |
| 2. Safe haven exemption included in state's definition of child maltreatment | |
| a. Must leave a child at specific safe haven locations | Yes |
| b. Child must be left by parent or parent's agent | Yes |
| c. Child must be left by a certain age (specify) | Yes - 30 days old or younger |
| d. No intent to return | Yes |
| e. Child must be left unharmed | No |
| f. Other (specify) | No |

Domain R: Reporting child abuse and neglect

Table III.A. Reporting policies

| | Response |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. Statewide centralized reporting | Yes |
| 2. How reporting is decentralized | |
| a. Each county or region has its own reporting hotline | Logical Skip |
| b. Some counties or regions have own reporting hotline | Logical Skip |
| c. During some times of the day, counties or regions have their own reporting hotline | Logical Skip |
| d. Other (specify) | Logical Skip |
| 3. Standard for reporting child maltreatment | |
| a. Known abuse and neglect | Yes |
| b. Reasonable cause to believe a child was abused or neglected | Yes |
| 4. Universal mandated reporting | No |
| 5. Required training for mandated reporters | Yes, some mandated reporters |
| 6. Penalties for failure to report | Yes, all mandated reporters |
| 7. Specific penalties for failure to report | |
| a. Criminal charges | Yes |
| b. Civil charges | No |
| c. Professional licensure suspended or revoked | No |
| d. Other (specify) | No |
| 8. Penalties for false reporting | Yes |
| 9. Specific penalties for false reporting | |
| a. Criminal charges | Yes |
| b. Civil charges | No |
| c. Professional license suspended or revoked | No |
| d. Other (specify) | Yes - Fine up to \$2000 |
| e. Unknown | No |
| 10. Immunity for reporters of child abuse and neglect | Yes |
| 11. Information requested at the time of report | |
| a. Identifying information of child | Yes |
| b. Location/contact information of child and family | Yes |
| c. Type/severity of suspected maltreatment | Yes |
| d. Date of suspected maltreatment | Yes |
| e. Identifying and other information of alleged perpetrator(s) | Yes |
| f. Identifying and other information of reporter | Yes |
| g. Identifying information of child's parents, guardian, or caregiver/caretaker | No |
| h. Identifying and other information of family/household members | No |
| i. Information on prior maltreatment | Yes |
| j. Other (specify) | No |
| 12. Anonymity of reporter | |
| a. All reporters (including mandated reports) can stay anonymous | Yes |

Table III.A (continued)

| | Response |
|---|----------|
| b. The general public can be anonymous (mandated reporters cannot remain anonymous) | No |
| c. Reporters (including mandated reporters) cannot be anonymous | No |
| d. Unknown | No |
| 13. Tribal involvement in accepting reports of tribal cases | |
| a. Tribes are not involved | No |
| b. Tribes accept reports (specify tribes) | No |
| c. Collaboration of tribes with state/local public child welfare agency accept reports (specify tribes) | No |
| d. Unknown | Yes |

Table III.B. Types of mandated reporters

| | Response | Response | Response |
|--|--|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Types of mandated reporters | Included in state's definition of mandated reporters | Training required ¹ | Subject to penalties for failure to report ² |
| a. Foster parents | Yes | No | Yes |
| b. School staff – teachers | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| c. School bus drivers or other transportation staff | No | Logical Skip | Logical Skip |
| d. Before/after school program staff | Yes | No | Yes |
| e. Child care staff | Yes | No | Yes |
| f. Camp counselors, directors, or administrators | Yes | No | Yes |
| g. Athletic coaches or staff | Yes | No | Yes |
| h. Medical or dental professionals | Yes | No | Yes |
| i. Substance abuse disorder treatment providers | Yes | No | Yes |
| j. Mental health, counselors, or other social service professionals | Yes | No | Yes |
| k. Police or other law enforcement | Yes | No | Yes |
| l. Emergency medical technicians, firefighters, or other emergency personnel | Yes | No | Yes |
| m. Judges | No | Logical Skip | Logical Skip |
| n. District attorneys or other attorneys | No | Logical Skip | Logical Skip |
| o. Guardian ad litem or Court-appointed special advocates | Yes | No | Yes |
| p. Other court personnel | Yes | No | Yes |
| q. Shelter staff | No | Logical Skip | Logical Skip |
| r. Those who work in fields processing or monitoring print, film, or computer images | No | Logical Skip | Logical Skip |
| s. Religious clergy | Yes | No | Yes |
| t. Volunteers | No | Logical Skip | Logical Skip |

Table III.B (continued)

| | | | |
|---|---|-----------|---|
| <p>u. Other type of mandated reporter (specify)</p> | <p>Yes - Medical examiner; Pharmacist; Any employee of the Department of Children and Families or any person who, in the performance of such person's duties, has regular contact with and provides services to or on behalf of children pursuant to a contract with or credential issued by the Department of Children and Families; Any employee of the Department of Public Health; Any employee of the Office of Early Childhood who is responsible for the licensing of child care centers, group child care homes, family child care homes or youth camps; Licensed behavioral analyst; Any family relations counselor, family relations counselor trainee or family services supervisor employed by the Judicial Department; Any victims services advocate employed by the Office of Victim Services</p> | <p>No</p> | <p>Yes - Medical examiner; Pharmacist; Any employee of the Department of Children and Families or any person who, in the performance of such person's duties, has regular contact with and provides services to or on behalf of children pursuant to a contract with or credential issued by the Department of Children and Families; Any employee of the Department of Public Health; Any employee of the Office of Early Childhood who is responsible for the licensing of child care centers, group child care homes, family child care homes or youth camps; Licensed behavioral analyst; Any family relations counselor, family relations counselor trainee or family services supervisor employed by the Judicial Department; Any victims</p> |
|---|---|-----------|---|

Table III.B (continued)

| | Response | Response | Response |
|--|----------|----------|---|
| | | | services advocate employed by the Office of Victim Services; Any employee of a juvenile justice program operated by or pursuant to a contract with the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Department |

¹Responses in this column can equal logical skip when the given type of mandated reporter is not included in the state's definition of mandated reporters or when no training is required for mandated reporters (Table III.A.5). Responses in this column can be yes when a state has universal mandated reporting (Table III.A.4) and all mandated reporters require training (Table III.A.5).

²Responses in this column can equal logical skip with the given type of mandated reporter is not included in the state's definition of mandated reporters or when no mandated reporters are subject to penalties (Table III.A.6). Responses in this column can be yes when a state has universal mandated reporting (Table III.A.4) and when all adults or all mandated reporters are subject to penalties (Table III.A.6)

Domain S: Screening reports of child abuse and neglect

Table IV.A. Screening policies

| | Response |
|--|---|
| 1. Statewide centralized screening | Yes |
| 2. How screening is decentralized | |
| a. Each county or region has its own screening unit | Logical Skip |
| b. Some counties or regions have their own screening units | Logical Skip |
| c. During certain times of the day, counties or regions have their own screening units | Logical Skip |
| d. Other (specify) | Logical Skip |
| 3. Information required to screen in report | |
| a. Identifying information of child | Yes |
| b. Location/contact information of child and family | Yes |
| c. Type/severity of suspected maltreatment | Yes |
| d. Date of suspected maltreatment | Yes |
| e. Identifying and other information of alleged perpetrator(s) | Yes |
| f. Other (specify) | Yes - Name of reporter and other person(s) who may have knowledge of the situation; Relationship between reporter and alleged perpetrator; Name and location of non-custodial parents; Languages spoken; Whether the reporter observed physical evidence of abuse or neglect; How the caller knows what happened; Family safety factors; Intake worker safety factors |
| g. Unknown | No |

Table IV.B. Screening Decision Process and Activities

| | Response | Required cases | Conditions or types of cases |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Decision processes used during screening | | | |
| a. Supervisory review | Yes | Required for some | — |
| b. Team-based decision | No | Logical Skip | — |
| c. Individual screener | No | Logical Skip | — |
| d. Other (specify) | No | Logical Skip | — |
| e. Unknown | No | — | — |
| 2. Variability of decision process used for screening | | | |
| a. Consistent statewide | Yes | — | — |
| b. Varies locally | No | — | — |
| c. Unknown | No | — | — |
| 3. Certain activities or information are required as part of screening | | | |
| Yes | | | |
| 4. Activities/information required as part of screening | | | |
| a. Safety or risk assessment | Yes | Required for all | Not applicable |
| b. Review agency records for prior involvement with child protective services | Yes | Required for all | Not applicable |
| c. Other (specify) | No | Logical Skip | Not applicable |
| 5. Types of safety/risk assessment used during screening | | | |
| a. Structured Decision Making | Yes | — | — |
| b. Other (specify) | No | — | — |
| 6. Consistency of screening activities/information | | | |
| a. Consistent statewide | Yes | — | — |
| b. Varies locally (specify) | No | — | — |
| c. Unknown | No | — | — |

Table IV.C. Screeners

| | Response |
|--|----------|
| 1. Screener of abuse and neglect reports | |
| a. Case workers (frontline staff) | No |
| b. Case managers (supervisors) | No |
| c. Staff in specialized screening unit | Yes |
| d. Other (specify) | No |
| 2. Qualifications of screener | |
| a. Associate's degree | No |
| b. Bachelor's degree | Yes |
| c. Master's degree | No |
| d. Training for screening (specify) | No |
| e. Years of experience (specify) | No |
| f. Other (specify) | No |
| g. Unknown | No |
| 3. Tribal involvement in screening process of tribal cases | |
| a. Tribes are not involved | No |
| b. Tribes conduct screening (specify tribes) | No |
| c. Collaboration of tribes with state/local public child welfare agency (specify tribes) | No |
| d. Unknown | Yes |

Domain I: Investigations of child abuse and neglect

Table V.A. Investigations policies

| | Response |
|---|----------|
| 1. Child maltreatment investigations lead to criminal penalties | Yes |
| 2. Investigator for reports | |
| a. Case workers (frontline staff) | Yes |
| b. Case managers (supervisors) | No |
| c. Staff in specialized investigations unit | Yes |
| d. Law enforcement | No |
| e. Other (specify) | No |
| 3. Qualifications of investigator | |
| a. Associate's degree | No |
| b. Bachelor's degree | Yes |
| c. Master's degree | No |
| d. Training for conducting investigations (specify) | No |
| e. Years of experience (specify) | No |
| f. Other (specify) | No |
| g. Unknown | No |
| 4. Level of evidence required for substantiation (founded/indicated/confirmed) | |
| a. Preponderance of evidence | No |
| b. Credible or substantial evidence | No |
| c. Probable or reasonable cause | Yes |
| d. Other (specify) | No |

Table V.B. Required activities/information for investigation

| | Response | Required cases | Conditions or types of cases |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------|--|
| 1. Certain activities/information required for the investigation process | Yes | | |
| 2. Specific activities or information required for investigation | | | |
| a. Review agency records for prior involvement with child protective services | Yes | Required for all | Not applicable |
| b. Visit to child's home | Yes | Required for all | Not applicable |
| c. Interview or observation of child victim | Yes | Required for all | Not applicable |
| d. Interview or observation of other children living in child's home | Yes | Required for all | Not applicable |
| e. Risk or safety assessment | Yes | Required for all | Not applicable |
| f. Evaluation of home environment or home study | Yes | Required for all | Not applicable |
| g. Interviews with child's parents, caregivers, or other adults residing in child's home | Yes | Required for all | Not applicable |
| h. Check of criminal records for adults in home | Yes | Required for all | Not applicable |
| i. Check of child welfare or central registry for prior child maltreatment allegations against adults in home | Yes | Required for all | Not applicable |
| j. Medical evaluation | Yes | Required for some | An evaluation is conducted if determined to be necessary |
| k. Mental health evaluation | No | Logical Skip | Not applicable |
| l. Interview alleged perpetrator | Yes | Required for some | If the alleged perpetrator agrees to participate |
| m. Interview reporter or collateral source | No | Logical Skip | Not applicable |
| n. Other (specify) | No | Logical Skip | Not applicable |

Domain W: Child welfare response

Table VI.A. Differential or alternative response

| | Response |
|--|--|
| 1. Differential/alternative response | |
| a. No | No |
| b. Yes—implemented statewide | Yes |
| c. Yes—implemented in specific counties or regions (specify) | No |
| d. Unknown | No |
| 2. Types of maltreatment eligible for differential/alternative response | |
| a. All types of maltreatment are eligible | No |
| b. Only certain types of maltreatment are eligible | Yes |
| c. Unknown | No |
| 3. Types of maltreatment <u>not</u> eligible for differential/alternative response | |
| a. Cases involving child fatalities | Yes |
| b. Substance-exposed infants | No |
| c. Physical abuse | No |
| d. Sexual abuse | Yes |
| e. Neglect | No |
| f. Abandoned infants | No |
| g. Other (specify) | No |
| 4. Eligibility for differential/alternative response determined by a risk determination | |
| a. No | No |
| b. Yes | Yes |
| c. Other (specify) | No |
| d. Unknown | No |
| 5. Tools used to determine risk for differential/alternative response | Yes - Structured Decision Making Safety Assessment |
| 6. Risk level eligible for differential/alternative response | |
| a. No risk | No |
| b. Low risk | Yes |
| c. Moderate risk | No |
| d. Other (specify) | No |
| e. Unknown | No |
| 7. Other types of cases or conditions eligible for differential/alternative response | |
| a. No immediate safety concerns | Yes |
| b. No prior reports of child abuse or neglect | Yes |

Table VI.A (continued)

| | Response |
|--|---|
| c. Other (specify) | Yes - A case that is not a new Child Protection Services report on an active ongoing services case; Cases that are not involved in congregate care, foster care, or persons entrusted; Cases without previous adjudication of abuse or neglect in Superior Court of Juvenile Matters or comparable out-of-state-court, including prior termination of parental rights (TPR) |
| 8. When is determination made for differential/alternative response | |
| a. At time of screening to screen-out to differential response | No |
| b. After a report is screened-in | Yes |
| c. Other (specify) | No |
| 9. Referrals to community services for cases engaged in differential response | |
| a. No | No |
| b. Yes—for all cases | Yes |
| c. Yes—when families express interest | Yes |
| d. Yes—when there is a determination of risk | Yes |
| e. Yes—other (specify) | No |

Table VI.B. In-home services and foster care

| | Response |
|---|---|
| 1. In-home services provided for unsubstantiated cases to maintain intact families | |
| a. No | No |
| b. Yes—implemented statewide | Yes |
| c. Yes—implemented in specific counties or regions | No |
| d. Unknown | No |
| 2. In-home services provided post reunification | |
| a. No | No |
| b. Yes—implemented statewide | Yes |
| c. Yes—implemented in specific counties or regions | No |
| d. Unknown | No |
| 3. Tribal involvement in foster care for tribal cases | |
| a. Tribes do not provide foster care | No |
| b. Tribes provide foster care (specify tribes) | No |
| c. Unknown | Yes |
| 4. Foster care extension for those older than 18 years | Yes |
| 5. Age youth are allowed to remain in extended foster care | |
| a. Age 21 | No |
| b. Other (specify) | Yes - Age 23, if the individual is in school continuously or if they can establish that they are in need of additional services |
| 6. Foster care case management staff | |
| a. State/county public agency staff | Yes |
| b. Contracted provider staff | Yes |
| c. Tribal agency staff | No |
| d. Unknown | No |
| 7. Qualifications of foster care case managers | |
| a. Associate's degree | No |
| b. Bachelor's degree | Yes |
| c. Master's degree | No |
| d. Training for case management (specify) | No |
| e. Years of experience (specify) | No |
| f. Other (specify) | No |
| g. Unknown | No |

Table VI.C. Permanency

| | Response |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. Kinship guardianship as a permanency option | Yes |
| 2. Subsidized guardianship | Yes |
| 3. Subsidized kinship guardianship | Yes |
| 4. Subsidized adoption | Yes |

Domain C: Child welfare system context

Table VII.A. Child welfare system context

| | Response |
|--|--|
| 1. State or county-administered child welfare system | |
| a. State-administered | Yes |
| b. County-administered | No |
| c. Hybrid (partially administered by the state and partially administered by the counties) | No |
| d. Unknown | No |
| 2. State operates under legal consent decree or other court-ordered monitoring | Yes - Juan F. vs. Malloy; Emily J. vs. Weicker |

Supplemental Notes on State

Definitions

Treatment of any child by an accredited Christian Science practitioner in lieu of treatment by a licensed medical professional does not itself constitute neglect or maltreatment.

State also provides religious exemptions in the statute for mandatory vaccinations.

Substance-exposed newborns were considered high-risk newborns until the policy changed to include a positive toxicology test as physical neglect.

Reporting

Training is made available to all mandated reporters, but is not required for all mandated reporters.

Screening

The data elements regarding information required to screen in a report includes all items requested at time of screening, but it is unknown what information is required for screening-in a case.

For screening process, a supervisory review is needed for exceptional circumstances, which may be a critical incident or significant event. Critical incidents are factors of suspected abuse or neglect that involve but are not limited to a child who:

1. Has died
2. Is in the care and custody of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and has been abducted
3. Has sustained a serious injury during a restraint or seclusion episode at a DCF-operated or licensed facility
4. Has been hospitalized with a life-threatening condition
5. Has broken bones, serious burn that requires immediate medical attention, or sentinel injuries (that is, bruising, oral injury, etc.) and is age 5 or younger
6. Has a serious head injury that requires immediate medical attention
7. Has injuries to his or her internal organs
8. Is in the care and custody of DCF and has been sexually assaulted by an adult
9. Is in the care and custody of DCF and has run away and presents an imminent danger to him- or herself or the community (i.e., child under age 13, medical condition, cognitive disability, etc.)
10. Is a victim of domestic or international human trafficking/sexual exploitation with allegation(s) against a caregiver or entrusted person
11. Is a participant in an event related to a DCF client that is likely to result in media coverage
12. Is a Safe Haven infant
13. Is a participant in a report that involves the death of a parent or caregiver

Significant events are circumstances that pertain to a child who is DCF-involved that involved but are limited to:

1. A suicide attempt (a non-fatal, self-directed, potentially injurious behavior with an intent to die as a result of the behavior; might not result in injury)
2. An incident involving one or more children who have run away or are AWOL from a DCF or other operated or licensed entity
3. A significant disturbance involving children at a congregate care facility or licensed entity
4. Any call for emergency services
5. An allegation of a serious crime by an adult authorized by DCF to be responsible for the care of a child (including a DCF employee, licensed foster or adoptive parent, an employee of a DCF-contracted or credentialed provider, or a congregate care facility at which DCF-involved children reside)
6. An arrest of any child or youth in an open DCF case; or death of a parent or caregiver in an open DCF case

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