

## 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.

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### 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

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### 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.

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## 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/>).

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## 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](mailto:SCANPoliciesDatabase@mathematica-mpr.com).

## State Identifying Information

Table I.A. State identifying information

	Response
a. State abbreviation	AR
b. State Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) code	05
c. Census region code	South
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
<b>1. Types of maltreatment included in state definition</b>	
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	Yes
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	No
r. Illicit substance. Illegally providing a controlled substance to a child	Yes
s. Human trafficking, involuntary servitude, sexual servitude	Yes
t. Female genital mutilation	Yes
u. Shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma	Yes
v. Failure to protect. Failure to protect from harm	Yes
w. Domestic violence. Exposure to domestic violence	No
x. Factitious disorder by proxy	Yes
y. Institutional abuse/neglect	No
z. Other definition (specify)	No
<b>2. Subtypes of maltreatment included in state definition</b>	
a. Subtypes of maltreatment considered abuse	Abuse includes physical abuse, exposure to a drug lab, illegal substances, trafficking, female genital mutilation, and Munchausen syndrome by proxy (Factitious disorder by proxy)

Table II.A (continued)

	Response
b. Subtypes of maltreatment considered neglect	Neglect includes failure to protect, malnourishment, inadequate clothing/shelter, medical neglect, abandonment, injurious environment, not meeting parent responsibilities, educational neglect, prenatal exposure, injurious environment, and abandonment
c. Subtypes of maltreatment considered other than abuse or neglect	Not applicable
<b>3. Level of harm included in state's definition of child maltreatment</b>	
a. Inflicts harm	Yes
b. Imminent danger or substantial risk of harm	Yes
<b>4. Differences in level of harm included in state's definition of child maltreatment by type of maltreatment</b>	No
<b>5. Type of harm or injury specified in state's definition of child maltreatment</b>	
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	No
e. Other (specify)	No
<b>6. Variation in extent of injury or harm by maltreatment type in the state's definition of child maltreatment</b>	No
<b>7. Perpetrator identified as part of state's definition of child maltreatment</b>	Yes
<b>8. Types of perpetrators specified as part of state's definition of child maltreatment</b>	
a. Any adult	Yes
b. Parent	Yes
c. Guardian	Yes
d. Caregiver/caretaker	Yes
e. Family member/parent paramour	Yes
f. Household member	Yes
g. Person responsible for child	Yes
h. Other (specify)	No

Table II.A (continued)

	Response
9. Types of perpetrators vary by type of maltreatment	Yes
10. Explanation of variation in types of perpetrator by maltreatment type	For sexual abuse, the perpetrator can include any person (including teens) as well as caretakers
11. Child age included in definition of child maltreatment	Yes
12. Specific child age in definition of child maltreatment	Under age 18 with variability under 18
13. Variability of child age by type of maltreatment	Yes - Sexual abuse criteria vary by age of perpetrator; Educational neglect applies to children between the ages of 6 and 17; Shaking a child requires a caretaker to have caused injury for children 4 and older; Striking a child on the face/head requires a physical injury for children 7 and older

**Table II.B. Child maltreatment definition exemptions**

	<b>Response: Yes/No/Unknown</b>
<b>1. Exemption included in state's definition of child maltreatment</b>	
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	Yes
e. Religious observance, parent relies on spiritual or religious forms of medical treatment	Yes
f. Other exemption (specify)	Yes - A child maltreatment investigation will have an individual finding of true but exempt for underaged juvenile offenders if there is an overall true finding of sexual abuse by a child under the age of 14 to another child; Prenatal exposure to drugs or alcohol is not considered child abuse if the mother intends to put the child up for adoption
<b>2. Safe haven exemption included in state's definition of child maltreatment</b>	
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
<b>1. Statewide centralized reporting</b>	Yes
<b>2. How reporting is decentralized</b>	
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
<b>3. Standard for reporting child maltreatment</b>	
a. Known abuse and neglect	Yes
b. Reasonable cause to believe a child was abused or neglected	Yes
<b>4. Universal mandated reporting</b>	No
<b>5. Required training for mandated reporters</b>	Yes, some mandated reporters
<b>6. Penalties for failure to report</b>	Yes, all mandated reporters
<b>7. Specific penalties for failure to report</b>	
a. Criminal charges	Yes
b. Civil charges	Yes
c. Professional licensure suspended or revoked	No
d. Other (specify)	No
<b>8. Penalties for false reporting</b>	Yes
<b>9. Specific penalties for false reporting</b>	
a. Criminal charges	Yes
b. Civil charges	No
c. Professional license suspended or revoked	No
d. Other (specify)	No
e. Unknown	No
<b>10. Immunity for reporters of child abuse and neglect</b>	Yes
<b>11. Information requested at the time of report</b>	
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	No
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	No

Table III.A (continued)

	Response
j. Other (specify)	Yes - Potential danger to staff assessing the report; Current risk of harm to the child; Identity and location of possible witnesses or persons knowledgeable about the alleged child maltreatment; Licensing authority and facility involved if applicable
<b>12. Anonymity of reporter</b>	
a. All reporters (including mandated reports) can stay anonymous	Yes
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
<b>13. Tribal involvement in accepting reports of tribal cases</b>	
a. Tribes are not involved	Yes
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	No

**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 <sup>1</sup>	Subject to penalties for failure to report <sup>2</sup>
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	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
e. Child care staff	Yes	No	Yes
f. Camp counselors, directors, or administrators	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
g. Athletic coaches or staff	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
h. Medical or dental professionals	Yes	No	Yes
i. Substance abuse disorder treatment providers	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
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	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
m. Judges	Yes	No	Yes
n. District attorneys or other attorneys	Yes	No	Yes
o. Guardian ad litem or Court-appointed special advocates	Yes	No	Yes
p. Other court personnel	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
q. Shelter staff	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
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)

	Response	Response	Response
u. Other type of mandated reporter (specify)	Yes - Coroner; Domestic abuse advocate; An employee of DHS or contractor working for DHS; Employee of child advocacy center or child safety center; Sexual abuse advocate or volunteer; Rape crisis advocate or volunteer; Victim or witness coordinator; Victim assistance professional or volunteer; Employee of Crimes Against Children Division; An individual employed by a nonprofit charitable organization other than a nonprofit hospital; Child Welfare Ombudsman	No	Yes - Coroner; Domestic abuse advocate; An employee of the Department of Human Services (DHS) or contractor working for DHS; Employee of child advocacy center or child safety center; Sexual abuse advocate or volunteer; Rape crisis advocate or volunteer; Victim or witness coordinator; Victim assistance professional or volunteer; Employee of Crimes Against Children Division; an individual employed by a nonprofit charitable organization other than a nonprofit hospital; Child Welfare Ombudsman

<sup>1</sup>Responses 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).

<sup>2</sup>Responses 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
<b>1. Statewide centralized screening</b>	Yes
<b>2. How screening is decentralized</b>	
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
<b>3. Information required to screen in report</b>	
a. Identifying information of child	No
b. Location/contact information of child and family	Yes
c. Type/severity of suspected maltreatment	Yes
d. Date of suspected maltreatment	No
e. Identifying and other information of alleged perpetrator(s)	No
f. Other (specify)	Yes - Current risk of harm to the child; Mental and physical condition of alleged offender; Identity and location of possible witnesses or persons knowledgeable about the alleged child maltreatment; Licensing authority and facility involved, if applicable; Potential danger to staff assessing the report
g. Unknown	No

**Table IV.B. Screening Decision Process and Activities**

	<b>Response</b>	<b>Required cases</b>	<b>Conditions or types of cases</b>
<b>1. Decision processes used during screening</b>			
a. Supervisory review	Yes	Required for some	—
b. Team-based decision	No	Logical Skip	—
c. Individual screener	Yes	Required for all	—
d. Other (specify)	No	Logical Skip	—
e. Unknown	No	—	—
<b>2. Variability of decision process used for screening</b>			
a. Consistent statewide	Yes	—	—
b. Varies locally	No	—	—
c. Unknown	No	—	—
<b>3. Certain activities or information are required as part of screening</b>			
	Yes		
<b>4. Activities/information required as part of screening</b>			
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
<b>5. Types of safety/risk assessment used during screening</b>			
a. Structured Decision Making	No	—	—
b. Other (specify)	Yes - Staff are required to collect information on the current risk of harm to the child and then reassess at 30 days	—	—
<b>6. Consistency of screening activities/information</b>			
a. Consistent statewide	Yes	—	—
b. Varies locally (specify)	No	—	—
c. Unknown	No	—	—

**Table IV.C. Screeners**

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

## Domain I: Investigations of child abuse and neglect

Table V.A. Investigations policies

	Response
<b>1. Child maltreatment investigations lead to criminal penalties</b>	Yes
<b>2. Investigator for reports</b>	
a. Case workers (frontline staff)	Yes
b. Case managers (supervisors)	Yes
c. Staff in specialized investigations unit	Yes
d. Law enforcement	Yes
e. Other (specify)	No
<b>3. Qualifications of investigator</b>	
a. Associate's degree	No
b. Bachelor's degree	Yes
c. Master's degree	No
d. Training for conducting investigations (specify)	Yes - Training information is not specified
e. Years of experience (specify)	No
f. Other (specify)	No
g. Unknown	No
<b>4. Level of evidence required for substantiation (founded/indicated/confirmed)</b>	
a. Preponderance of evidence	Yes
b. Credible or substantial evidence	No
c. Probable or reasonable cause	No
d. Other (specify)	No

**Table V.B. Required activities/information for investigation**

	<b>Response</b>	<b>Required cases</b>	<b>Conditions or types of cases</b>
<b>1. Certain activities/information required for the investigation process</b>	Yes		
<b>2. Specific activities or information required for investigation</b>			
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 some	Not required for any reports, but the investigator has the right to obtain a criminal background check
i. Check of child welfare or central registry for prior child maltreatment allegations against adults in home	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable

Table V.B (continued)

	Response	Required cases	Conditions or types of cases
j. Medical evaluation	Yes	Required for some	Physical abuse; Sexual abuse; Neglect; Burns, fractures or dislocations in children under three years of age; Burns, fractures or dislocations in children of any age if unexplained or implausibly explained; Burns, bruises, or fractures in non-ambulatory children; Reasonable suspicion that vaginal or oral penetration has occurred; Cases involving sexually transmitted diseases in prepubescent children; Cases of malnutrition and failure to thrive; Cases of serious medical neglect; Cases of alleged head and abdominal injuries (regardless of presence of visible injury); Reports in which the child has an observable injury, the caretaker admits responsibility for the injury and there is reason to believe that there are internal injuries or other injuries which have occurred in the past
k. Mental health evaluation	Yes	Required for some	Impairment of the intellectual, emotional, or psychological development as evidenced by observable and substantial reduction in the child's ability to function within a normal range of performance and behavior; Suffered a substantial impairment in the ability to function as a result of a specific, non-accidental action or interaction committed by a parent or caretaker
l. Interview alleged perpetrator	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
m. Interview reporter or collateral source	Yes	Required for some	Reports that were not made anonymously unless the report is received after hours
n. Other (specify)	No	Logical Skip	Not applicable

## Domain W: Child welfare response

Table VI.A. Differential or alternative response

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

Table VI.A (continued)

	Response
c. Other (specify)	Yes - All of the following factors must be present for a report to be assigned to Differential Response: (1) identifying information for the family members and their current address or a means to locate them is known at the time of the report, (2) the alleged perpetrators are parents, birth or adoptive, legal guardians, custodians, or any person standing in loco parentis, (3) the family has no pending investigation or open protective services or supportive services case, (4) the alleged victims, siblings or other household members, are not currently in the care and custody of Arkansas Department of Children and Family Services or wards of the court, (5) protective custody of the children has not been taken or required in the current investigation
<b>8. When is determination made for differential/alternative response</b>	
a. At time of screening to screen-out to differential response	No
b. After a report is screened-in	Yes
c. Other (specify)	No
<b>9. Referrals to community services for cases engaged in differential response</b>	
a. No	No
b. Yes—for all cases	Yes
c. Yes—when families express interest	No
d. Yes—when there is a determination of risk	No
e. Yes—other (specify)	No

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

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

**Table VI.C. Permanency**

	<b>Response</b>
<b>1. Kinship guardianship as a permanency option</b>	Yes
<b>2. Subsidized guardianship</b>	No
<b>3. Subsidized kinship guardianship</b>	Yes
<b>4. Subsidized adoption</b>	Yes

## Domain C: Child welfare system context

Table VII.A. Child welfare system context

	Response
<b>1. State or county-administered child welfare system</b>	
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
<b>2. State operates under legal consent decree or other court-ordered monitoring</b>	No

## Supplemental Notes on State

### Definitions

Excessive corporal punishment is considered abuse unless the state's "reasonable and moderate discipline" exception applies.

### Screening

No supervisory review or team-based decisions are used when reports come in through the hotline.

### Investigations

Child maltreatment investigations might not always lead to criminal investigations.

### Child welfare response

Specific types of cases that are not eligible for differential response:

1. Inadequate supervision reports involving a child younger than 5, or a child age 5 or older with a physical or mental disability that limits his or her skills in the areas of communication, self-care, self-direction, and safety
2. Educational neglect reports involving a child who was never enrolled in an educational program
3. Environmental neglect reports involving a child under age 3, and those situations in which the hotline assesses an immediate danger to the child's health or physical well-being based on the severity
4. Lock out reports involving a child under age 10 and those situations in which the hotline assesses an immediate danger to the child's health or physical well-being based on the severity
5. Medical neglect reports involving a child under age 13 or a child with a severe medical condition that could become serious enough to cause long-term harm to the child if untreated will be assigned to the investigative pathway.
6. Reports of human bites, sprains/dislocations, striking a child age 7 or older on the face, striking a child with a closed fist, and throwing a child when these allegations occurred:
  - a. Less than one year ago, and/or
  - b. If the caller to the hotline can verify an injury either through physical signs (e.g., scarring), medical information, dated photographs, etc.

## State Statutes and Policy Documentation Sources

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*Policy and procedure manual*. Retrieved October 8, 2019, from [https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/images/uploads/dcf/Master\\_DCFS\\_Policy.pdf](https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/images/uploads/dcf/Master_DCFS_Policy.pdf)

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Child Maltreatment Act, Ark. Code Ann. § 12-18 (2019).

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