

## 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	CA
b. State Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) code	06
c. Census region code	West
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	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	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	Yes
x. Factitious disorder by proxy	Yes
y. Institutional abuse/neglect	Yes
z. Other definition (specify)	No
<b>2. Subtypes of maltreatment included in state definition</b>	
a. Subtypes of maltreatment considered abuse	Emotional abuse includes exposure to domestic violence
b. Subtypes of maltreatment considered neglect	Neglect is categorized as severe neglect and neglect; Neglect includes physical neglect, medical neglect, and educational neglect

Table II.A (continued)

	Response
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
<b>9. Types of perpetrators vary by type of maltreatment</b>	No
<b>10. Explanation of variation in types of perpetrator by maltreatment type</b>	Not applicable
<b>11. Child age included in definition of child maltreatment</b>	Yes
<b>12. Specific child age in definition of child maltreatment</b>	Under age 18
<b>13. Variability of child age by type of maltreatment</b>	No

**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	No
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 - Homelessness
<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 - 72 hours old or younger
d. No intent to return	No
e. Child must be left unharmed	Yes
f. Other (specify)	No

## Domain R: Reporting child abuse and neglect

Table III.A. Reporting policies

	Response
<b>1. Statewide centralized reporting</b>	No
<b>2. How reporting is decentralized</b>	
a. Each county or region has its own reporting hotline	Yes
b. Some counties or regions have own reporting hotline	No
c. During some times of the day, counties or regions have their own reporting hotline	No
d. Other (specify)	No
<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, some mandated reporters
<b>7. Specific penalties for failure to report</b>	
a. Criminal charges	Yes
b. Civil charges	No
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	No
b. Civil charges	Yes
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	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	Yes
h. Identifying and other information of family/household members	Yes
i. Information on prior maltreatment	No
j. Other (specify)	No
<b>12. Anonymity of reporter</b>	
a. All reporters (including mandated reports) can stay anonymous	No

Table III.A (continued)

	Response
b. The general public can be anonymous (mandated reporters cannot remain anonymous)	Yes
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	Yes	Yes	Yes
d. Before/after school program staff	Yes	Yes	Yes
e. Child care staff	Yes	Yes	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	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	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
r. Those who work in fields processing or monitoring print, film, or computer images	Yes	No	Yes
s. Religious clergy	Yes	No	No
t. Volunteers	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
u. Other type of mandated reporter (specify)	Yes - Animal control officer; Commercial computer technician; Coroner	No	Yes - Animal control officer; Commercial computer technician

Table III.B (*continued*)

<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>	No
<b>2. How screening is decentralized</b>	
a. Each county or region has its own screening unit	Yes
b. Some counties or regions have their own screening units	No
c. During certain times of the day, counties or regions have their own screening units	No
d. Other (specify)	No
<b>3. Information required to screen in 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. Other (specify)	Yes - Whether child is Native American; Location of incident; Reporter information; Information regarding all adults and minors in the household
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	No	Logical Skip	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	Logical Skip	—	—
b. Other (specify)	Logical Skip	—	—
<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)	Yes
b. Case managers (supervisors)	Yes
c. Staff in specialized screening unit	No
d. Other (specify)	No
<b>2. Qualifications of screener</b>	
a. Associate's degree	No
b. Bachelor's degree	Yes
c. Master's degree	Yes
d. Training for screening (specify)	No
e. Years of experience (specify)	Yes - Experience equivalent to a bachelor's degree or master's degree, as certified by the State Personnel Board or a county civil service board
f. Other (specify)	No
g. Unknown	No
<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)	No
c. Staff in specialized investigations unit	No
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	Yes
d. Training for conducting investigations (specify)	No
e. Years of experience (specify)	Yes - Experience equivalent to a bachelor's degree or master's degree, as certified by the State Personnel Board or a county civil service board
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	No	Logical Skip	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	No	Logical Skip	Not applicable
i. Check of child welfare or central registry for prior child maltreatment allegations against adults in home	No	Logical Skip	Not applicable
j. Medical evaluation	No	Logical Skip	Not applicable
k. Mental health evaluation	No	Logical Skip	Not applicable
l. Interview alleged perpetrator	No	Logical Skip	Not applicable
m. Interview reporter or collateral source	Yes	Required for some	If the reporter is considered a necessary collateral contacts as a person having knowledge of the condition of each child that is the subject of an allegation
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	No
c. Yes—implemented in specific counties or regions (specify)	Yes - 25 counties used differential response in FY 2018-2019
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	No
b. Substance-exposed infants	No
c. Physical abuse	No
d. Sexual abuse	No
e. Neglect	No
f. Abandoned infants	No
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 - A standardized assessment tool
<b>6. Risk level eligible for differential/alternative response</b>	
a. No risk	No
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	No
b. No prior reports of child abuse or neglect	No
c. Other (specify)	No

Table VI.A (continued)

	Response
<b>8. When is determination made for differential/alternative response</b>	
a. At time of screening to screen-out to differential response	Yes
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	No
b. Yes—implemented statewide	Yes
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	No
c. Yes—implemented in specific counties or regions	Yes
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 - Child welfare policy varies by county and tribes are not represented in all counties; Tribes are unspecified
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	Yes
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	Yes
d. Training for case management (specify)	No
e. Years of experience (specify)	Yes - Experience equivalent to a bachelor's degree or master's degree, as certified by the State Personnel Board or a county civil service board
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>	Yes
<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	No
b. County-administered	Yes
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

Although the child welfare agency does not consider having a child present within a structure where methamphetamine is being created (drug lab) to be child abuse or neglect, it is punishable under the penal code.

It is up to each county to determine if domestic violence is considered child abuse.

Exposure to domestic abuse is a factor and would prompt an in-person investigation, but this is not specifically included under the definitions of maltreatment.

The state child welfare agency defines a child as anyone who is younger than 18, but certain parts of the penal code only apply to children at certain ages: in the penal code, willful desertion (abandonment) applies to children younger than 14, and exposing a child to a methamphetamine lab applies to children younger than 16.

Any adult may be a perpetrator of child abuse or neglect as specified in the state's definition of a third party perpetrator: "A third party perpetrator is any person who is not the legal parent or guardian and perpetrates abuse or neglect of a child."

### Screening

For screening reports, when a foster care household is involved, a tool called a structured decision-making (SDM) substitute care provider safety assessment is used.

Not all screening staff are required to have a master's degree. The qualifications are as follows: 50 percent of staff providing emergency response services and 50 percent of staff providing family maintenance services shall possess a master's degree in social work, or its equivalent in education and/or work experience as certified by the State Personnel Board or a county civil service board. 100 percent of supervisors shall possess an M.S.W. The remaining emergency response and family maintenance services staff may have a bachelor's degree or its equivalent in education and/or work experience as certified by the State Personnel Board or a county civil service board.

### Investigations

Not all investigation staff are required to have a master's degree. The qualifications are as follows: 50 percent of staff providing emergency response services and 50 percent of staff providing family maintenance services shall possess a master's degree in social work, or its equivalent in education and/or work experience, 100 percent of supervisors shall possess an M.S.W., and the remaining percentage may have a bachelor's degree or its equivalent in education and/or work experience.

### Child welfare response

There are three different response tracks with different standards based on level of risk: low (community response), low to moderate (child welfare services and agency partners response), and moderate- high (child welfare services response).

Not all foster care case managers are required to have a master's degree. The qualifications are as follows: 50 percent of staff providing emergency response services and 50 percent of staff providing family maintenance services shall possess a master's degree in social work, or its equivalent in education and/or work experience as certified by the State Personnel Board or a county civil service board. 100 percent of supervisors shall possess an M.S.W. The remaining percentage may have a bachelor's degree or its equivalent in education and/or work experience as certified by the State Personnel Board or a county civil service board.

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Praed Foundation. (2018). *California integrated practice: Child and adolescent needs and strengths (CA IP-CANS); 2018 reference guide*. Retrieved September 5, 2019, from [https://calswec.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/1\\_ca\\_integrated\\_practice\\_cans\\_reference\\_guide\\_2018.pdf](https://calswec.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/1_ca_integrated_practice_cans_reference_guide_2018.pdf)

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