

## 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	WI
b. State Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) code	55
c. Census region code	Midwest
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	No
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	Yes
x. Factitious disorder by proxy	No
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	Physical abuse includes excessive corporate punishment
b. Subtypes of maltreatment considered neglect	Neglect includes inadequate clothing, inadequate shelter, malnourishment, and medical neglect
c. Subtypes of maltreatment considered other than abuse or neglect	Not applicable

Table II.A (continued)

	Response
<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>	Yes
<b>10. Explanation of variation in types of perpetrator by maltreatment type</b>	For neglect, the perpetrator is a caregiver; For emotional maltreatment, the perpetrator is a parent, guardian, or legal custodian
<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	Yes
b. Discipline, physical discipline as long as it is reasonable and causes no bodily injury to the child	No
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
<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	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>	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	No
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	No
c. Professional licensure suspended or revoked	Yes
d. Other (specify)	No
<b>8. Penalties for false reporting</b>	No
<b>9. Specific penalties for false reporting</b>	
a. Criminal charges	Logical Skip
b. Civil charges	Logical Skip
c. Professional license suspended or revoked	Logical Skip
d. Other (specify)	Logical Skip
e. Unknown	Logical Skip
<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	No
h. Identifying and other information of family/household members	Yes
i. Information on prior maltreatment	No
j. Other (specify)	Yes - Collateral contacts
<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	No
b. Tribes accept reports (specify tribes)	Yes - Tribes are not specified
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	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
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	No	Yes
e. Child care staff	Yes	No	Yes
f. Camp counselors, directors, or administrators	Yes	No	Yes
g. Athletic coaches or staff	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
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	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	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
s. Religious clergy	Yes	No	Yes
t. Volunteers	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip

Table III.B (continued)

	<b>Response</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>Response</b>
u. Other type of mandated reporter (specify)	Yes - Coroner; Public assistance worker, including financial and employment planner; Mediator	No	Yes - Anyone who intentionally violates the reporting laws by failure to report as required

<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)	No
f. Other (specify)	No
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 all	—
b. Team-based decision	No	Logical Skip	—
c. Individual screener	No	Logical Skip	—
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)	Yes - Review criminal and sex offender history	Required for all	Not applicable
<b>5. Types of safety/risk assessment used during screening</b>			
a. Structured Decision Making	No	—	—
b. Other (specify)	Yes - Screen for present and impending danger threats and other emergency conditions	—	—
<b>6. Consistency of screening activities/information</b>			
a. Consistent statewide	Yes	—	—
b. Varies locally (specify)	No	—	—
c. Unknown	No	—	—

**Table IV.C. Screeners**

	<b>Response</b>
<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	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)	Yes - Staff members whose responsibilities include investigation or treatment of child abuse and neglect or of unborn child abuse shall successfully complete training in child abuse and neglect protective services approved by the department; Caseworkers and supervisors must participate in pre-service training
e. Years of experience (specify)	No
f. Other (specify)	No
g. Unknown	No
<b>3. Tribal involvement in screening process of tribal cases</b>	
a. Tribes are not involved	No
b. Tribes conduct screening (specify tribes)	Yes - Tribes are not specified
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	No
c. Master's degree	No
d. Training for conducting investigations (specify)	Yes - Staff members whose responsibilities include investigation and treatment of child abuse and neglect or of unborn child abuse shall successfully complete training in child abuse and neglect protective services approved by the department; Caseworkers and supervisors must participate in pre-service training; Workers whose responsibilities include removal of children into custody must participate in intake training
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 some	Alleged perpetrator is the child's caregiver or legal guardian or is suspected to be in the child's home
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	No	Logical Skip	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	No	Logical Skip	Not applicable
k. Mental health evaluation	No	Logical Skip	Not applicable
l. Interview alleged perpetrator	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
m. Interview reporter or collateral source	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable

Table V.B (continued)

	<b>Response</b>	<b>Required cases</b>	<b>Conditions or types of cases</b>
n. Other (specify)	Yes - Maltreatment (alleged maltreatment and any other type occurring within the family); Child functioning; Adult functioning; Parenting and discipline techniques; Family functioning; When known collateral sources of information (e.g. physicians) must be contacted; Identify children who might be subject to Indian Child Welfare; Identify services and supports offered; Collaborate with law enforcement on some cases	Required for all	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 - Wisconsin's alternative response pilot program was launched in July of 2010 and was fully operating, or beginning operation in the following counties in 2017: Barron, Brown, Calumet, Chippewa, Dodge, Douglas, Eau Claire, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Jefferson, La Crosse, Langlade, Manitowoc, Marathon, Menominee, Outagamie, Pierce, Racine, Sauk, Waupaca, Waushara, and Winnebago counties
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	No
c. Physical abuse	Yes
d. Sexual abuse	Yes
e. Neglect	No
f. Abandoned infants	No
g. Other (specify)	Yes - Methamphetamine abuse by parent caregiver
<b>4. Eligibility for differential/alternative response determined by a risk determination</b>	
a. No	Yes
b. Yes	No
c. Other (specify)	No
d. Unknown	No
<b>5. Tools used to determine risk for differential/alternative response</b>	Logical Skip
<b>6. Risk level eligible for differential/alternative response</b>	
a. No risk	Logical Skip
b. Low risk	Logical Skip
c. Moderate risk	Logical Skip
d. Other (specify)	Logical Skip
e. Unknown	Logical Skip
<b>7. Other types of cases or conditions eligible for differential/alternative response</b>	
a. No immediate safety concerns	Yes

Table VI.A (continued)

	Response
b. No prior reports of child abuse or neglect	No
c. Other (specify)	Yes - For reports that have been screened in for a CPS response, initial assignment to a traditional response or alternative response takes into consideration an array of factors (e.g., presence of imminent danger, level of risk, the number of previous reports, the source of the report, and/or presenting case characteristics such as type of alleged maltreatment and age of the alleged victim); Assignment to the traditional or alternative approach can change based on new information that alters safety threats or levels of risk
<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	No
c. Yes—when families express interest	No
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
<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	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	Yes
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	No
c. Master's degree	No
d. Training for case management (specify)	No
e. Years of experience (specify)	No
f. Other (specify)	Yes - There are no statewide requirements for qualifications for foster care case managers, but counties may set their own qualification requirements
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>	No
<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	No
c. Hybrid (partially administered by the state and partially administered by the counties)	Yes
d. Unknown	No
<b>2. State operates under legal consent decree or other court-ordered monitoring</b>	Yes - Milwaukee County Child Protective Services Settlement

## Supplemental Notes on State

### Definitions

State statute defines the following types of child maltreatment: neglect, physical abuse, emotional damage, sexual abuse, and methamphetamine manufacture.

There is no specific exemption in state statute for physical discipline, but conduct only constitutes “physical abuse” under Wisconsin statute if it meets the statutory definition, which is “[p]hysical injury inflicted on a child by other than accidental means.” Wis. Stat. § 48.02(1)(a). The statute defines what constitutes a “physical injury.” See Wis. Stat. § 48.02(14g).

Department of Children and Families standards provide that allegations that an infant has been born with controlled substances or controlled substance analogs in his or her system should be screened in to develop a plan of safe care and provide services, but that no substantiation decision should be made.

### Reporting

Tribes are not involved in the county agency’s decision on whether to accept a report, but there are cases that are reported to a tribal social services agency. In those cases, the tribal social services agency is involved in accepting the report. As a sovereign nation, tribes will accept reports, screen reports, and manage cases according to their own tribal codes and policies.

State statute lists categories of professionals who are mandated to report child maltreatment. State statute also provides that any person who is not a mandated reporter but has reason to suspect that a child has been abused or neglected, or threatened with abuse or neglect, may report. Whether school bus drivers or other transportation staff are mandated reporters depends on whether they are considered school employees, and this can vary from district to district. Camp counselors, camp directors or administrators, and athletic coaches or staff at private sports organizations are not expressly included as categories in the Wisconsin mandated reporter statute, but an individual in one of these positions could be in one of the other categories in the mandated reporter law, such as child care provider. Homeless shelter staff are not expressly included as a category in the Wisconsin mandated reporter statute, but an individual in this position could be in one of the other categories in the mandated reporter law, such as social worker.

State does not require training for all mandated reporters, but DCF does provide a free online training for mandated reporters. However, state law requires training for certain categories of mandated reporters (for example, school boards require every school district employee to get mandated reporter training). In addition, licensing requirements for certain professions may require mandated reporter training. Certain employers may also require their employees to have mandated reporter training.

Professional licensure would be suspended or revoked for failure to report based on the licensing rules of the specific profession. Certain employers may also impose their own penalties for failure to report.

State statutes do not contain a provision that penalizes false reporting.

## **Screening**

There are different criteria to screen in reports of abuse of an unborn child and reports of possible medical neglect of a disabled infant.

Some counties have specialized screening staff, and other counties have workers with mixed caseloads (for example, screening along with other functions).

For county agency cases involving tribal families, tribes are not involved in the county agency's screening process. There are also cases that are reported to a tribal social services agency. In those cases, the tribal social services agency conducts the screening process. As a sovereign nation, tribes will accept reports, screen reports, and manage cases according to their own tribal codes and policies.

## **Investigations**

Criminal charges are part of a separate law enforcement process, but may occur in parallel with the CPS investigation. Law enforcement and CPS may work together in the investigation. Some counties have specialized investigations staff, and other counties have workers who have mixed caseloads (for example, investigations along with other functions).

## **Child welfare response**

When reports are screened out at CPS Access, agencies are encouraged to refer families to community resources when appropriate. When a report is screened out, but an agency decides to make an offer of services, the agency has initiated voluntary services (assessment and referral). This is an optional service; county agencies and the Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services are not required to provide outreach services to cases that are screened out at Access. Counties may also offer voluntary services for cases that are screened in and investigated.

Tribes may be involved in the foster care placement process. In some cases, a tribal child may be placed in a home licensed by a tribal social services agency. The involvement in foster care will vary from tribe to tribe. In addition, tribal social services agencies conduct all tasks related to foster care for cases that are within their jurisdiction. As a sovereign nation, tribes will accept reports, screen reports, and manage cases according to their own tribal codes and policies.

There are no statewide requirements for qualifications for foster care case managers, but counties may set their own qualification requirements.

## State Statutes and Policy Documentation Sources

Children's Code, Wis. Stat. Charitable, Curative, Reformatory and Penal Institutions and Agencies § 48 (2019).

Crimes Against Children, Wis. Stat. Criminal Code § 948 (2019).

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