

## SCAN Policies Database State Profile 2021: California

### 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, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Mathematica leads this project 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 that can be used for analysis. The SCAN Policies Database is a resource for researchers, analysts, child welfare agency staff, and others interested in examining differences between states in their definitions and policies on child maltreatment and how they change over time.

---

### 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. The SCAN Policies Database team gathered this information through a document collection, review, and coding process. The team obtained input from states on data collection through a confirmation and verification process. More information about these data collection procedures can be found in the data user's guide and data collection protocol, accessible at <https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/data-use-resources>.

The SCAN Policies Database 2021 represents data collected, reviewed, and verified between July 2021 and January 2022. The data reflect the state definitions and policies for the calendar year 2021. The scope of topics in the 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 SCAN Policies 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 begins with a letter prefix identifying the domain for each variable. The six domains with the identifying protocol number prefix are listed below.

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 is a summary of the information collected about the definitions and policies for the identified state. It is organized by six domains, with each section containing a set of tables that depict the state's information for all variables within that domain.

The state profile presents data for each variable with “yes,” “no,” “unknown,” or other response as appropriate. The response of “unknown” appears for topics that could not be located from the state's available resources or verified with that state. In some cases, “logical skip” appears 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. The data user's guide includes appendices with information on corrections to the SCAN Policies Database 2019 and a summary of changes to the data between 2019 and 2021 that reflect changes to state laws and policies during that time period. There is one data user's guide that is updated and applicable for all rounds of data collection for the SCAN Policies Database.
- **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 includes several appendices, including a list of all sources used to review and code data. There are separate codebooks to summarize the data from each round of data collection.
- **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. There are separate data collection protocols for each round of data collection for the SCAN Policies Database.

These data use resources can be found on the SCAN Policies Database website (<https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/data-use-resources>) or from the 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](mailto:SCANPoliciesDatabase@mathematica-mpr.com).

## State identifying information

Table I. 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	2021
g. Data version	2021v1

## Domain D: Definitions of child maltreatment

Table II. 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	No
x. Factitious disorder by proxy	Yes
y. Institutional abuse/neglect	Yes
z. Other definition (specify)	No

Table II (continued)

	Response
<b>2. Subtypes of maltreatment included in state definition</b>	
a. Subtypes of maltreatment considered abuse	Not applicable
b. Subtypes of maltreatment considered neglect	Neglect includes physical neglect, medical neglect, inadequate clothing, inadequate food, inadequate shelter, inadequate supervision, failure-to-thrive, 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 (continued)

	Response
9. Types of perpetrators vary by type of maltreatment	Yes
10. Explanation of variation in types of perpetrator by maltreatment type	For the purpose of sexual exploitation, 'person responsible for a child's welfare' means a parent, guardian, foster parent, or a licensed administrator or employee of a public or private residential home, residential school, or other residential institution
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	No

**Table III. 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 for 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; Use of small amounts of alcohol for religious ceremonies; Older child permitted to try a small amount of alcohol at a family occasion that did not result in intoxication
<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

**Table IV. Definitions and response for child fatalities and near-fatalities cases**

	<b>Response: Yes/No/Unknown</b>
<b>1. State's definition of fatalities or deaths caused by child maltreatment</b>	
a. Not specified/not defined	No
b. Injury from abuse or neglect caused death	Yes
c. Abuse or neglect was contributing factor in death	Yes
d. Death of child was in child welfare custody/foster care	No
e. Other (specify)	No
f. Unknown	No
<b>2. State conducts case reviews with a child fatality review team or a similar review process for fatalities caused by child abuse or neglect</b>	
a. No case review or review process	No
b. Reviews are required of all or some cases	Yes
c. Reviews can be conducted but are not required	No
d. Other (specify)	No
e. Unknown	No
<b>3. State's definition of near-fatalities or near-deaths caused by child maltreatment</b>	
a. Not specified/not defined	No
b. General reference to a serious or critical condition/injury that is life threatening with a substantial risk of death	Yes
c. Specific injury or specific medical treatment/intervention (specify)	No
d. Other (specify)	No
e. Unknown	No
<b>4. State conducts case reviews with a review team or similar review process for near-fatalities caused by child abuse or neglect</b>	
a. No case review or review process	No
b. Reviews are required of all or some cases	Yes
c. Reviews can be conducted but are not required	No
d. Other (specify)	No
e. Unknown	No



## Domain R: Reporting child abuse and neglect

Table V. 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 their 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, 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	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	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 V (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)	No

Table V (continued)

<p>c. Collaboration of tribes with state/local public child welfare agency to accept reports (specify tribes)</p>	<p>Yes - Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, Buena Vista Rancheria of Mi-Wuk Indians, lone Band of Miwok Indians of California, Jackson band of Mi-Wuk Indians, Tyme Maidu Tribe- Berry Creek Reservation, Enterprise Rancheria, Mechoopda Indian Tribe, Mooretown Rancheria, Cachil DeHe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community, Cortina Rancheria, Elk Valley Rancheria, Resighini Rancheria, Tolowa Dee-ni Nation, Yurok Tribe of California, Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, Big Sandy Rancheria, Cold Springs Rancheria, Table Mountain Rancheria, Grindstone Indian Rancheria, Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria, Big Lagoon Rancheria, Blue Lake Rancheria, Trinidad Rancheria, Hoopa Valley Tribe, Table Bluff Reservation, Quechan Indian Tribe, Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley Bishop Tribe, Timbi-Sha Shoshone Tribe, Fort Independence Community of Paiute, Lone Pine, Tejon Indian Tribe, Tachi-Yokut Tribe, Big Valley Band Rancheria, Elem Indian Colony, Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake, Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians, Robinson Rancheria, Scotts Valley Reservation, Susanville Indian Rancheria, North Fork Rancheria, Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians, Cahto Tribe, Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians, Guidiville Indian Rancheria, Hopland Band of Pomo Indians, Manchester Band of Pomo Indians, Pinoleville Pomo Nation Potter Valley Tribe, Redwood Valley Little</p>
---	---

Table V (continued)

	River Band of Rancheria of Pomo, Round Valley Reservation, Sherwood Valley Rancheria, Alturas Rancheria, Cedarville Rancheria, Fort Bidwell Reservation, Bridgeport Indian Colony, Benton Paiute Reservation, United Auburn Indian Community, Greenville Rancheria, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, Augustine Band of Mission Indians, Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, Cahuilla Band of Indians, Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians, Ramona Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians, Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians, Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians, Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians, Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians, Wilton Rancheria, Chemehuevi Indian Tribe, Colorado River Indian Tribe, Fort Mojave, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, Barona Band of Mission Indians, Campo Band of Kumeyaay Indians, Ewiiapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians, Santa Ysabel Band of Diegueno Indians, Inaja-Cosmit Band of Mission Indians, Jamul Indian Village, La Jolla Indian Reservation, La Posta Band of Mission Indians, Los Coyotes Band of Mission Indians, Manzanita Band of Kumeyaay Nation, Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians, Pala Band of Mission Indians, Pauma Band of Mission Indians, Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians, San Pasqual Band of Dieguel Mission Indians, Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation, Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians, California Valley Miwok Tribe, Santa Ynez Band
--	---

Table V (continued)

	Response
	of Chumash Mission Indians, Pit River Tribe, Redding Rancheria, Karuk Tribe of California, Quartz Valley Reservation, Cloverdale Rancheria of Pomo Indians of California, Dry Creek Rancheria of Pomo Indians, Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewart's Point Rancheria, Lower Lake Rancheria, Lytton Band of Pomo Indians, Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians, Tule River Indian Reservation, Chicken Ranch Rancheria, Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk I, and Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation
d. Tribes accept reports and collaborate with state/local public child welfare agency (specify tribes)	No
e. Unknown	No
<b>14. State requires all notifications of substance-exposed newborns (SENs) to be submitted as reports of child maltreatment</b>	
a. State does not require all cases of SENs to be reported for child maltreatment, but they could be reported if they meet certain criteria	Yes
b. State requires all SENs to be reported as child maltreatment	No
c. Other (specify)	No
d. Unknown	No
<b>15. Accepts reports of risk without an allegation of child maltreatment (risk-only reports)</b>	
a. No	No
b. Yes	Yes
c. Other (specify)	No
d. Unknown	No

**Table VI. Types of mandated reporters**

	<b>Response</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>Response</b>
<b>1. Types of mandated reporters</b>	<b>Included in state's definition of mandated reporters</b>	<b>Training required<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Subject to penalties for failure to report<sup>2</sup></b>
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	Yes
t. Volunteers	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
u. Coroners or medical examiners	Yes	No	No
v. Staff or contractors of state and county agencies	No	No	No

Table VI (continued)

	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>
w. Other type of mandated reporter (specify)	Yes - Animal control officer; Qualified autism service provider, service professional, or service paraprofessional; Human resource employee of a business that employs minors; An adult person whose duties require direct contact with and supervision of minors in the performance of the minors' duties in the workplace of a business; Diagnostic centers operated by the State Department of Education; Custodian of records of a clergy member	Yes - Human resource employee of a business that employs minors; An adult person whose duties require direct contact with and supervision of minors in the performance of the minors' duties in the workplace of a business; Diagnostic centers operated by the State Department of Education	Yes - Animal control officer; Qualified autism service provider, service professional, or service paraprofessional; Human resource employee of a business that employs minors; An adult person whose duties require direct contact with and supervision of minors in the performance of the minors' duties in the workplace of a business; Diagnostic centers operated by the State Department of Education; Custodian of records of a clergy member

<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 V.5).

Responses in this column can be yes when a state has universal mandated reporting (Table V.4) and all mandated reporters require training (Table V.5).

<sup>2</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 mandated reporters are subject to penalties (Table V.6).

Responses in this column can be yes when a state has universal mandated reporting (Table V.4) and when all adults or all mandated reporters are subject to penalties (Table V.6).

## Domain S: Screening reports of child abuse and neglect

Table VII. 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 - Location of incident; Reporter information; Information regarding all adults and minors in the household
g. Unknown	No



**Table VIII. 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	Yes	—	—
b. Other (specify)	No	—	—
<b>6. Consistency of screening activities/information</b>			
a. Consistent statewide	Yes	—	—
b. Varies locally (specify)	No	—	—
c. Unknown	No	—	—

**Table IX. Screeners**

	<b>Response</b>
<b>1. Screener of abuse and neglect reports</b>	
a. Caseworkers (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. Degree in social work or related field for screeners</b>	
a. Not required	No
b. Required	No
c. Recommended or preferred, but not required	Yes
d. Other (specify)	No
e. Unknown	No
<b>4. 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. Tribes conduct screening and collaborate with state/local public child welfare agency (specify tribes)	No
e. Unknown	No

## Domain I: Investigations of child abuse and neglect

Table X. Investigations policies

	Response
<b>1. Child maltreatment investigations lead to criminal penalties</b>	Yes
<b>2. Investigator for reports</b>	
a. Caseworkers (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. Degree in social work or related field for investigators</b>	
a. Not required	No
b. Required	No
c. Recommended or preferred, but not required	Yes
d. Other (specify)	No
e. Unknown	No
<b>5. 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. Unknown	No
<b>6. Investigation determination can result in an "inconclusive" finding</b>	
a. No	No
b. Yes	Yes
c. Unknown	No

**Table XI. 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 XII. 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 Fiscal Year 2018-2019
d. Unknown	No
<b>2. Types of maltreatment eligible for differential/alternative response</b>	
a. All types of maltreatment are eligible	Yes
b. Only certain types of maltreatment are eligible	No
c. Unknown	No
<b>3. Types of maltreatment <u>not</u> eligible for differential/alternative response</b>	
a. Cases involving child fatalities	Logical Skip
b. Substance-exposed infants	Logical Skip
c. Physical abuse	Logical Skip
d. Sexual abuse	Logical Skip
e. Neglect	Logical Skip
f. Abandoned infants	Logical Skip
g. Other (specify)	Logical Skip
<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

Table XII (continued)

	Response
<b>7. Other types of cases or conditions eligible for differential/alternative response</b>	
a. No other cases or conditions	Yes
b. No immediate safety concerns	No
c. No or few prior reports of child abuse or neglect	No
d. Other (specify)	No
<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 XIII. In-home services, foster care, and permanency**

	<b>Response</b>
<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</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. Permanency</b>	
a. Kinship guardianship as a permanency option	Yes
b. Subsidized guardianship	Yes
c. Subsidized kinship guardianship	Yes
d. Subsidized adoption	Yes
<b>7. 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>8. Qualifications of foster care case managers</b>	
a. Associate 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 XIII (continued)

	Response
<b>9. Degree in social work or related field for foster care case managers</b>	
a. Not required	No
b. Required	No
c. Recommended or preferred, but not required	Yes
d. Other (specify)	No
e. Unknown	No



**Table XIV. Agency staff dedicated to equity**

	<b>Response</b>
<b>1. Child welfare agency uses staff roles/functions dedicated to addressing disproportionality and/or equity</b>	
a. No staff or roles	No
b. Uses cultural brokers	No
c. Uses manager, administrator, or office focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) or multicultural or tribal affairs	No
d. Other (specify)	Yes
e. Unknown	No
<b>2. Aspects of child welfare process that involve cultural brokers</b>	
a. Screening process	Logical Skip
b. Investigation process	Logical Skip
c. Case management/child welfare response	Logical Skip
d. Other (specify)	Logical Skip
e. Unknown	Logical Skip
<b>3. Specify other staff roles/job functions dedicated to addressing disproportionality and/or equity</b>	Child Welfare Service (CWS) county team whose members include CWS and agency partner staff. Their focus is to determine the nature and scope of the policy, program and practice issues in implementing Differential Response and will address cultural competence as well as fairness and equity issues. Use of and practices involving cultural brokers are county-specific.
<b>4. Aspects of child welfare process that involve other staff roles/functions used to address disproportionality and/or equity</b>	
a. Screening process	Yes
b. Investigation process	No
c. Case management/child welfare response	Yes
d. Other (specify)	No
e. Unknown	No

## Domain C: Child welfare system context

Table XV. 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.

Each county is responsible for determining whether 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.

Sexual abuse means sexual assault or sexual exploitation. Sexual assault does not include voluntary conduct, if there are no indicators of abuse, unless the conduct is between a person age 21 or older and a minor who is younger than age 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."

### Reporting

The state accepts risk-only reports regarding a sibling of a child who is the subject of suspected child maltreatment. The state considers this category to be Sibling - at risk.

### Screening

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 must possess a master's degree in social work, or its equivalent in education or work experience, as certified by the State Personnel Board or a county civil service board. One hundred percent of supervisors must 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 or work experience, as certified by the State Personnel Board or a county civil service board.

### Investigations

Safety assessment is required for all cases; risk assessment is required for substantive and inconclusive investigations and is only recommended for unfounded 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 must possess a master's degree in social work, or its equivalent in education or work experience; 100 percent of supervisors must possess an M.S.W.; and the

remaining percentage of staff may have a bachelor's degree or its equivalent in education 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 to 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 must possess a master's degree in social work, or its equivalent in education or work experience as certified by the State Personnel Board or a county civil service board; 100 percent of supervisors must possess an M.S.W.; and the remaining percentage of staff may have a bachelor's degree or its equivalent in education or work experience as certified by the State Personnel Board or a county civil service board.

## State Statutes and Policy Documentation Sources

- Abandonment and Neglect of Children, Cal. PEN Code § 270-273.75 (2019).
- California Department of Social Services. (n.d.). *Child fatality and near fatality - critical incident oversight and support unit*. Retrieved July 12, 2021, from <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/child-fatality-and-near-fatality>.
- California Department of Social Services. (2010). *Differential response guidelines and resources for implementation* (All County Information Notice No. I-49-10). Retrieved May 24, 2019, from a link which is no longer available.
- California Department of Social Services. (2016). *Manual of policies and procedures: Child welfare services*. California HHS. Retrieved July 12, 2021, from <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/Regs/cws1.pdf?ver=2019-01-29-130847-963>.
- California Department of Social Services. (2017). *Assessing and investigating referrals involving third party perpetrators of child abuse and neglect* (All County Letter No. 17-85). Retrieved March 11, 2020, from a link which is no longer available.
- California Department of Social Services. (2017). *Child welfare services program: Intake Manual*. Retrieved March 1, 2021, from a link which is no longer available.
- California Department of Social Services. (2020). All County Letter No. 20-122 (November 13, 2020). Retrieved March 1, 2021, from <https://cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/Additional-Resources/Letters-and-Notices/ACLs/2020/20-122.pdf>.
- California Department of Social Services, & National Council on Crime and Delinquency Children's Research Center. (2021). *The SDM System: Policy and procedures manual*. Retrieved March 1, 2021, from [https://ca.sdmdata.org/documents/CA\\_SDM\\_PP\\_Manual.pdf](https://ca.sdmdata.org/documents/CA_SDM_PP_Manual.pdf).
- California State Assembly. (2016). Assembly Bill No. 1625 Chapter 320 (September 13, 2016). Retrieved March 1, 2021, from [http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/15-16/bill/asm/ab\\_1601-1650/ab\\_1625\\_bill\\_20160913\\_chaptered.htm](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/15-16/bill/asm/ab_1601-1650/ab_1625_bill_20160913_chaptered.htm).
- California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids Act, Cal. WIC Code. § 11385-11393 (2018).
- Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act, Cal. PEN Code § 11164-11174.31 (2021).
- False Imprisonment and Human Trafficking, Cal. PEN Code § 236-237 (2019).
- General Health Facilities, Cal. Health and Safety Code §1250-1264 (2011).
- Investigation and Control of Crimes and Criminals, Cal. PEN Code § 1-2 (2019).
- Juvenile Court Law, Cal. WIC Code § 300-304.7 (2019).
- Juvenile Court Law, Cal. WIC Code § 360-371 (2019).
- Offenses Involving Controlled Substances Formerly Classified as Restricted Dangerous Drugs, Cal. Health and Safety Code § 11379.7 (1996).
- Praed Foundation. (2018). *California integrated practice: Child and adolescent needs and strengths; 2018 reference guide*. Retrieved September 5, 2019, from a link which is no longer available.

Rady Children's Hospital San Diego. (2012). *The California child abuse and neglect reporting law: Issues and answers for mandated reporters*. Retrieved May 15, 2019, from <https://mandatedreporterca.com/images/Pub132.pdf>.