

## SCAN Policies Database State Profile 2021: Maine

### 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.

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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. 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

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## 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.

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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. 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/>).

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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. State identifying information

	Response
a. State abbreviation	ME
b. State Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) code	23
c. Census region code	Northeast
d. State verified coding of information	Yes
e. State confirmed documents reviewed	Yes
f. State definitions and policies for calendar year	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	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	Yes
r. Illicit substance. Illegally providing a controlled substance to a child	Yes
s. Human trafficking, involuntary servitude, sexual servitude	Yes
t. Female genital mutilation	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

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 non-organic failure to thrive
c. Subtypes of maltreatment considered other than abuse or neglect	Emotional maltreatment includes exposure to domestic violence
<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)	Yes - Sexual abuse or exploitation; Failure to ensure compliance with school attendance requirements
<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	No
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	No
10. Explanation of variation in types of perpetrator by maltreatment type	Not applicable
11. Child age included in definition of child maltreatment	Yes
12. Specific child age in definition of child maltreatment	Under age 18
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	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 for 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	No
c. Child must be left by a certain age (specify)	Yes - 30 days old or younger
d. No intent to return	Yes
e. Child must be left unharmed	No
f. Other (specify)	No

**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	No
c. Specific injury or specific medical treatment/intervention (specify)	Yes - Serious injuries include an injury resulting from Shaken Baby Syndrome, any injury to a child under 6 months of age, abusive head trauma, skull fracture, inflicted head injury, subdural hematoma, multiple fractures, severe beating resulting in extensive contusions or welts, any injury resulting from Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy, drowning, non-organic failure to thrive, and other significant injuries which may have been inflicted by a person responsible for the child and/or are not consistent with the explanation offered
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

Table IV (continued)

	<b>Response: Yes/No/Unknown</b>
e. Unknown	No

## Domain R: Reporting child abuse and neglect

Table V. Reporting policies

	Response
<b>1. Statewide centralized reporting</b>	Yes
<b>2. How reporting is decentralized</b>	
a. Each county or region has its own reporting hotline	Logical Skip
b. Some counties or regions have their own reporting hotline	Logical Skip
c. During some times of the day, counties or regions have their own reporting hotline	Logical Skip
d. Other (specify)	Logical Skip
<b>3. Standard for reporting child maltreatment</b>	
a. Known abuse and neglect	Yes
b. Reasonable cause to believe a child was abused or neglected	Yes
<b>4. Universal mandated reporting</b>	No
<b>5. Required training for mandated reporters</b>	Yes, all 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	No
b. Civil charges	Yes
c. Professional licensure suspended or revoked	Yes
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	No
c. Professional license suspended or revoked	Yes
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	Yes

Table V (continued)

	Response
j. Other (specify)	Yes - Information about known risk factors (such as, domestic violence, substance use, mental health issues, medical conditions, etc.)
<b>12. Anonymity of reporter</b>	
a. All reporters (including mandated reports) can stay anonymous	Yes
b. The general public can be anonymous (mandated reporters cannot remain anonymous)	No
c. Reporters (including mandated reporters) cannot be anonymous	No
d. Unknown	No
<b>13. Tribal involvement in accepting reports of tribal cases</b>	
a. Tribes are not involved	No
b. Tribes accept reports (specify tribes)	No
c. Collaboration of tribes with state/local public child welfare agency to accept reports (specify tribes)	No
d. Tribes accept reports and collaborate with state/local public child welfare agency (specify tribes)	Yes - The Passamaquoddy Tribe and Penobscot Nation accept reports and exercise exclusive jurisdiction over child welfare cases; The Wabanaki, 'People of the Dawnland,' which includes the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, the Aroostook Band of Micmacs, Penobscot Nation, and Passamaquoddy Tribe, collaborate with the state public child welfare agency
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**

	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	Yes	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	Yes	Yes
g. Athletic coaches or staff	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
h. Medical or dental professionals	Yes	Yes	Yes
i. Substance abuse disorder treatment providers	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
j. Mental health, counselors, or other social service professionals	Yes	Yes	Yes
k. Police or other law enforcement	Yes	Yes	Yes
l. Emergency medical technicians, firefighters, or other emergency personnel	Yes	Yes	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	Yes	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	Yes	Yes
s. Religious clergy	Yes	Yes	Yes
t. Volunteers	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
u. Coroners or medical examiners	No	Yes	No
v. Staff or contractors of state and county agencies	No	Yes	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 - A homemaker; A state or municipal fire inspector; A municipal code enforcement official; A chair of a professional licensing board that has jurisdiction over mandated reporters; Humane agent employed by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry; Family or domestic violence victim advocates; Any person who has assumed full, intermittent or occasional responsibility for the care or custody of the child, regardless of whether the person receives compensation	Yes - A homemaker; A state or municipal fire inspector; A municipal code enforcement official; A chair of a professional licensing board that has jurisdiction over mandated reporters; Humane agent employed by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry; Family or domestic violence victim advocates; Any person who has assumed full, intermittent or occasional responsibility for the care or custody of the child, regardless of whether the person receives compensation	Yes - A homemaker; A state or municipal fire inspector; A municipal code enforcement official; A chair of a professional licensing board that has jurisdiction over mandated reporters; Humane agent employed by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry; Family or domestic violence victim advocates; Any person who has assumed full, intermittent or occasional responsibility for the care or custody of the child, regardless of whether the person receives compensation

<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>	Yes
<b>2. How screening is decentralized</b>	
a. Each county or region has its own screening unit	Logical Skip
b. Some counties or regions have their own screening units	Logical Skip
c. During certain times of the day, counties or regions have their own screening units	Logical Skip
d. Other (specify)	Logical Skip
<b>3. Information required to screen in report</b>	
a. Identifying information of child	Yes
b. Location/contact information of child and family	Yes
c. Type/severity of suspected maltreatment	Yes
d. Date of suspected maltreatment	Yes
e. Identifying and other information of alleged perpetrator(s)	Yes
f. Other (specify)	Yes - The reporter's name, contact information; Identity and location of parents/caregivers, children in the family; Why family is being referred, precipitating incidents, concerning parental behaviors; Present condition of the child(ren) and other potential victims; Other concerns such as serious substance abuse or mental health problems of the caregiver and household members; Any concerns that could lead to imminent danger to the child; Actions taken by the reporter thus far; Sufficient information to determine the presence of suspected child abuse and/or neglect
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 all	—
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)	Yes - Determination of whether family has a tribal affiliation; Determine cultural and ethnic factors; Perform resource review; Check related databases including ACES, Bureau of Motor Vehicles, criminal history, and sex offender registry	Required for all	Not applicable
<b>5. Types of safety/risk assessment used during screening</b>			
a. Structured decision making	Yes	—	—
b. Other (specify)	No	—	—

Table VIII (continued)

	Response	Required cases	Conditions or types of cases
<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	No
d. Training for screening (specify)	Yes - Structured Decision Making (SDM) training; Foundations training for new workers
e. Years of experience (specify)	No
f. Other (specify)	Yes - Conditional or full licensure at the Licensed Social Worker (LSW) level as issued by the Maine State Board of Social Work Licensure
g. Unknown	No
<b>3. Degree in social work or related field for screeners</b>	
a. Not required	No
b. Required	Yes
c. Recommended or preferred, but not required	No
d. Other (specify)	No
e. Unknown	No
<b>4. Tribal involvement in screening process of tribal cases</b>	
a. Tribes are not involved	No
b. Tribes conduct screening (specify tribes)	No
c. Collaboration of tribes with state/local public child welfare agency (specify tribes)	No
d. Tribes conduct screening and collaborate with state/local public child welfare agency (specify tribes)	Yes - The Passamaquoddy Tribe and Penobscot Nation exercise exclusive jurisdiction over child welfare cases; The Wabanaki, 'People of the Dawnland,' which includes the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, the Aroostook Band of Micmacs, Penobscot Nation, and Passamaquoddy Tribe, collaborate with the state public child welfare agency
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)	Yes
c. Staff in specialized investigations unit	No
d. Law enforcement	No
e. Other (specify)	Yes - Child interviews must be completed at the Child Advocacy Center when there are allegations of child sexual abuse
<b>3. Qualifications of investigator</b>	
a. Associate's degree	No
b. Bachelor's degree	Yes
c. Master's degree	No
d. Training for conducting investigations (specify)	Yes - Foundations training for new workers
e. Years of experience (specify)	No
f. Other (specify)	Yes - Conditional or full licensure at the LSW level as issued by the Maine State Board of Social Work Licensure
g. Unknown	No
<b>4. Degree in social work or related field for investigators</b>	
a. Not required	No
b. Required	Yes
c. Recommended or preferred, but not required	No
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	Yes
b. Yes	No
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	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
c. Interview or observation of child victim	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
d. Interview or observation of other children living in child's home	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
e. Risk or safety assessment	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
f. Evaluation of home environment or home study	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
g. Interviews with child's parents, caregivers, or other adults residing in child's home	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
h. Check of criminal records for adults in home	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
i. Check of child welfare or central registry for prior child maltreatment allegations against adults in home	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
j. Medical evaluation	Yes	Required for some	Physical abuse; Neglect; Physical symptomology; Sexual abuse
k. Mental health evaluation	Yes	Required for some	May be required based on circumstances of the case
l. Interview alleged perpetrator	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
m. Interview reporter or collateral source	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable

Table XI (continued)

	<b>Response</b>	<b>Required cases</b>	<b>Conditions or types of cases</b>
n. Other (specify)	Yes - Gather contact and identifying information about relatives; Identification of any pets in the home; Complete UNCOPE questionnaire to identify substance abuse; Assessment of strengths and needs of the family related to child safety; Create Plan of Safe Care for report including Drug Affected Baby (DAB)	Required for some	Plan of Safe Care is required for reports of a DAB only; All other listed activities are required for all cases

## 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	Yes
c. Yes - implemented in specific counties or regions (specify)	No
d. Unknown	No
<b>2. Types of maltreatment eligible for differential/alternative response</b>	
a. All types of maltreatment are eligible	No
b. Only certain types of maltreatment are eligible	Yes
c. Unknown	No
<b>3. Types of maltreatment <u>not</u> eligible for differential/alternative response</b>	
a. Cases involving child fatalities	Yes
b. Substance-exposed infants	No
c. Physical abuse	No
d. Sexual abuse	Yes
e. Neglect	No
f. Abandoned infants	Yes
g. Other (specify)	No
<b>4. Eligibility for differential/alternative response determined by a risk determination</b>	
a. No	No
b. Yes	Yes
c. Other (specify)	No
d. Unknown	No
<b>5. Tools used to determine risk for differential/alternative response</b>	Yes - SDM Intake Screening and Response Priority Tool =
<b>6. Risk level eligible for differential/alternative response</b>	
a. No risk	No
b. Low risk	Yes
c. Moderate risk	Yes
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	No
b. After a report is screened in	Yes
c. Other (specify)	No
<b>9. Referrals to community services for cases engaged in differential response</b>	
a. No	No
b. Yes - for all cases	Yes
c. Yes - when families express interest	No
d. Yes - when there is a determination of risk	No
e. Yes - other (specify)	No

**Table 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	Yes
b. Yes - implemented statewide	No
c. Yes - implemented in specific counties or regions	No
d. Unknown	No
<b>2. In-home services provided post reunification</b>	
a. No	Yes
b. Yes - implemented statewide	No
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 - Maliseet, Micmac, Penobscot and Passamaquoddy, known collectively as the Wabanaki, 'People of the Dawnland'
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	No
d. Training for case management (specify)	Yes - Foundations training for new workers
e. Years of experience (specify)	No
f. Other (specify)	Yes - Conditional or full licensure at the LSW level as issued by the Maine State Board of Social Work Licensure
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	Yes
c. Recommended or preferred, but not required	No
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	Yes
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)	No
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>	Not applicable
<b>4. Aspects of child welfare process that involve other staff roles/functions used to address disproportionality and/or equity</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

## 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	Yes
b. County administered	No
c. Hybrid (partially administered by the state and partially administered by the counties)	No
d. Unknown	No
<b>2. State operates under legal consent decree or other court-ordered monitoring</b>	No

## Supplemental Notes on State

### Definitions

Excessive corporal punishment and female genital mutilation are not specifically listed under definitions of maltreatment, but based on the physical injuries, they could fall into the physical abuse category.

Drug or alcohol misuse is not specifically listed under definitions of maltreatment, but if parental alcohol or substance use results in neglect, physical abuse, or harm to a child, this type of maltreatment would be substantiated or indicated.

Injurious environment is not specifically listed under definitions of maltreatment; however, the state considers inadequate shelter, which is included in the definition, an unsafe living environment or conditions.

Safe Haven locations are specific providers.

As of November 2021, the definitions of fatality and near-fatality are under review by the Office of Child and Family Service's medical director and communications and compliance manager. Child death and serious injury reviews are conducted for the following: death or serious injury or condition resulting from shaken baby syndrome or abusive head trauma, any injury to a child younger than 6 months of age, skull fracture(s), subdural hematoma(s), multiple fractures, severe beating resulting in extensive welts or contusions, any injury resulting from Munchausen syndrome by proxy, non-organic failure to thrive, drowning, other significant injuries or questionable cause of death, and other cases at the discretion of the Emergency Medical Technician.

### Reporting

Substance use disorder treatment providers and shelter staff are not considered mandated reporters unless they also fall into another category that is mandated to report, such as medical professionals or social services professionals.

All mandated reporters must receive training at least once every four years.

Professional licensure may be suspended or revoked as a result of false reporting, at the discretion of the licensing board.

### Screening

Staff who screen cases can be fully licensed or receive conditional licensure based on their qualifications. Some screening staff may have a master's degree, but it is not required.

Sufficient information to determine whether there is suspected child abuse and/or neglect present is required to screen a report in. Potential information includes the following:

1. The reporter's name, location, contact information, relationship to the child or family, last contact with the family, source of information, and wishes regarding confidentiality and family's awareness of report

2. Identity and location of parents or caregivers, children in the family, other relatives, information about primary caregiver of child(ren), visitation plan, other caregivers of the child(ren), family's primary language, and whether family has tribal affiliation and involves the Indian Child Welfare Act
3. Why family is being referred, precipitating incidents, concerning parental behaviors, any known impact of suspected abuse or neglect on the child, present condition of the child(ren) and other potential victims, other concerns such as serious substance abuse or mental health problems of the caregiver and household members, concerns that could lead to imminent danger to the child, and cultural or ethnic factors
4. Other people who might have direct knowledge and how to contact them, actions the reporter has taken, and whether situation has worsened, improved or remained the same
5. Previous child welfare history regarding the family, child, or alleged perpetrator; whether there is an open assessment, in-home case, or custody case on the child or family; and additional information per the appropriate intake template depending on the type of report received

### **Investigations**

Case workers and supervisors must complete the Assignment Activity Tool before going into the field to conduct interviews or initiating investigation activities unless extenuating circumstances are present (that is, after hours and weekend emergency coverage, emergency calls while in the field, reports that require an immediate response).

Investigations may result in one of three determinations: unsubstantiated, indicated (low to moderate severity of abuse or neglect), or substantiated (high severity of abuse or neglect).

Staff who conduct investigations can be fully licensed or receive conditional licensure based on their qualifications. Some investigators may have a master's degree, but it is not required.

Although not outlined in policy, mental health evaluations may be required based on the circumstances of a case.

### **Child welfare response**

The following factors are considered when determining eligibility for alternative response in Maine:

1. Whether a child is at risk of child maltreatment
2. The impact of the risk on the child(ren)
3. Signs of safety, signs of risk, and signs of danger
4. How likely it is for a child to experience maltreatment within the next six months
5. Caregiver strengths and needs related to child safety
6. Develop a plan to assist the family in keeping the children safe

Staff who provide foster care case management can be fully licensed or receive conditional licensure based on their qualifications. Some case managers may have a master's degree, but it is not required.

Although in-home services are not provided for unsubstantiated cases or post reunification, families may be connected to community-based services.

Maine's Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) works with the Immigrant Resource Center of Maine (IRCM), which provides translation assistance to assist families for navigating the child welfare system.

In January 2022, the state reported that alternative response programs will no longer be available effective July 2022.

## State Statutes and Policy Documentation Sources

- Child and Family Services and Child Protection Act, Me. Rev. Stat. § 22-1071 (2020).
- Immigrant Resource Center of Maine. (n.d.) *Cultural broker services*. Retrieved November 1, 2021, from <https://www.ircofmaine.org/cultural-broker-services.html>.
- Maine Bureau of Human Services. (2019). *Child protective services caseworker* [job description]. Retrieved August 12, 2021, from a link which is no longer available.
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- Maine Child and Family Services. (2021). *Reporting suspected child abuse and neglect*. Retrieved July 22, 2021, from <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/provider-resources/reporting-suspected-child-abuse-and-neglect>.
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- Offenses Against the Family, Me. Rev. Stat. § 17A-23 (2020).