

SCAN Policies Database State Profile 2023: Iowa

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 2023 represents data collected, reviewed, and verified between June 2023 and July 2024. The data reflect the state definitions and policies for the calendar year 2023. 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. Each of the six domains contain 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. Some information was not included in the state profile to ensure alignment with Executive Orders or other Presidential Actions.

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, including information about changes to the data between 2021 and 2023 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. There are separate codebooks to summarize the data from each round of data collection.
- **Errata statement:** The errata statement presents corrections applied to previous rounds of data for the SCAN Policies Database. Starting in 2023, there is one errata statement that is updated and applicable for all rounds of data collection for the SCAN Policies Database.
- **Data collection protocol:** The protocol has the questions used to collect information about states' laws and policies as part of the data review and coding process for each round of data collection. 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.

State identifying information

Table I. State Identifying information

	Response
State abbreviation	IA
State Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) code	19
Census region code	Midwest
State verified coding of information	Yes
State confirmed documents reviewed	Yes
State definitions and policies for calendar year	2023
Data version	2023v1

Domain D: Definitions of child maltreatment

Table D.I. State's definition of child maltreatment

	Response
1. Types of maltreatment included in state definition	
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	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	No
y. Institutional abuse/neglect	No
z. Other definition (specify)	No
2. Subtypes of maltreatment included in state definition	
a. Subtypes of maltreatment considered abuse	Physical abuse includes subdural hematoma (shaken baby syndrome) and female genital mutilation; Sexual abuse includes 13 subtypes
b. Subtypes of maltreatment considered neglect	Neglect (denial of critical care) includes 8 subtypes: Physical neglect; Medical neglect; Other forms of neglect (inadequate food, shelter, clothing, medical or mental health treatment, supervision, or other care necessary for the child's health and welfare)
c. Subtypes of maltreatment considered other than abuse or neglect	Not applicable

Table D.1 (*continued*)

	Response
3. Level of harm included in state's definition of child maltreatment	
a. Inflicts harm	Yes
b. Imminent danger or substantial risk of harm	Yes
4. Differences in level of harm included in state's definition of child maltreatment by type of maltreatment	Yes - Definitions for inadequate food and nutrition, shelter, and clothing, failure to provide medical care, mental health care, and meet emotional needs, and malnutrition include danger of suffering injury or death; Definition for failure to provide adequate supervision includes direct harm or risk of harm
5. Type of harm or injury specified in state's definition of child maltreatment	
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 - If the care is not provided, it will result in a denial of critical care
6. Variation in extent of injury or harm by maltreatment type in the state's definition of child maltreatment	No
7. Perpetrator identified as part of state's definition of child maltreatment	Yes
8. Types of perpetrators specified as part of state's definition of child maltreatment	
a. Any person	Yes
b. Parent	Yes
c. Guardian	Yes
d. Caregiver/caretaker	Yes
e. Family member or parent's paramour	Yes
f. Household member	Yes
g. Person responsible for child	Yes
h. Other (specify)	No
9. Types of perpetrators vary by type of maltreatment	Yes
10. Explanation of variation in types of perpetrator by maltreatment type	For all categories of abuse, the perpetrator is a caretaker of the child victim with the following exceptions: (1) for sexual abuse, the perpetrator can be a person 14 years or older who resides in a home with the child; (2) for child sex trafficking, the perpetrator can be any person
11. Child age included in definition of child maltreatment	Yes
12. Specific child age in definition of child maltreatment	Under age 18 with variability under 18
13. Variability of child age by type of maltreatment	Yes - With regards to maltreatment by allowing access by a registered sex offender, a child is defined as under age 14 or up to age 18 if the child has a physical/mental disability

Table D.II. Child maltreatment definition exemptions

	Response
1. Exemption included in state's definition of child maltreatment	
a. Financial issues, financial inability to provide for a child	Yes
b. Discipline; physical discipline, if 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 and safe surrender laws	Yes
d. Infant testing positive for drugs – medical; newborn with positive test for controlled substance due to parent's medical treatment	Yes
e. Religious observance; parent relies on spiritual or religious forms of medical treatment	Yes
f. Other exemption (specify)	No
2. Safe haven exemption included in state's definition of child maltreatment	
a. Must leave a child at specific safe haven locations or designated providers	Yes
b. Child must be left by parent or parent's agent	Yes
c. Child must be left by a certain age (specify)	Yes - 90 days old or younger
d. No intent to return	Yes
e. Child must be left unharmed	Yes
f. Other (specify)	No

Table D.III. Definitions and response for child fatalities and near-fatalities cases

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

Domain R: Reporting child abuse and neglect

Table R.I. Reporting policies

	Response
1. Statewide centralized reporting	Yes
2. Decentralized reporting	Logical Skip
3. Standard for reporting child maltreatment	
a. Known abuse and neglect	No
b. Reasonable cause to believe a child was abused or neglected	Yes
4. Universal mandated reporting	No
5. Required training for mandated reporters	Yes, all mandated reporters
6. Penalties for failure to report	Yes, all mandated reporters
7. Specific penalties for failure to report	
a. Criminal charges	Yes
b. Civil charges	Yes
c. Professional licensure suspended or revoked	No
d. Other (specify)	No
8. Penalties for false reporting	Yes
9. Specific penalties for false reporting	
a. Criminal charges	Yes
b. Civil charges	No
c. Professional license suspended or revoked	No
d. Other (specify)	No
10. Immunity for reporters of child abuse and neglect	Yes
11. Information requested at the time of report	
a. Identifying information of child	Yes
b. Location and contact information of child and family	Yes
c. Type and 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 or household members	Yes
i. Information on prior maltreatment	Yes
j. Other (specify)	No

Table R.I (continued)

	Response
12. Anonymity of reporter	General public (not mandated reporters) can remain anonymous
13. Tribal involvement in state or local public child welfare agency's process to accept reports of Tribal cases	No, Tribes are not involved
14. State requires all notifications of substance-exposed newborns (SENs) to be submitted as reports of child maltreatment	
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
15. Accepts reports of risk without an allegation of child maltreatment (risk-only reports)	Yes

Table R.II. Types of mandated reporters

	Response	Response	Response
1. Types of mandated reporters	Included in state's definition of mandated reporters	Training required ¹	Subject to penalties for failure to report ²
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	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
g. Athletic coaches or staff	Yes	Yes	Yes
h. Medical or dental professionals	Yes	Yes	Yes
i. Substance abuse disorder treatment providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
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. Guardians ad litem or court-appointed special advocates	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
p. Other court personnel	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
q. Shelter staff	Yes	Yes	Yes
r. Those who work in fields processing or monitoring print, film, or computer images	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
s. Religious clergy	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
t. Volunteers	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
u. Coroners or medical examiners	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
v. Staff or contractors of state and county agencies	Yes	Yes	Yes

Table R.II (*continued*)

	Response	Response	Response
w. Other type of mandated reporter (specify)	Yes - A social worker; An employee or operator of a public or private health care facility; An employee, operator, owner, or other person who performs duties for a child's residential facility; Operator of a foster care facility; Employee or operator of a provider of services to children funded under a federally approved medical assistance home- and community-based services waiver; Certified adoption investigators; A massage therapist	Yes - A social worker; An employee or operator of a public or private health care facility; An employee, operator, owner, or other person who performs duties for a child's residential facility; Operator of a foster care facility; Employee or operator of a provider of services to children funded under a federally approved medical assistance home- and community-based services waiver; Certified adoption investigators; A massage therapist	Yes - A social worker; An employee or operator of a public or private health care facility; An employee, operator, owner, or other person who performs duties for a child's residential facility; Operator of a foster care facility; Employee or operator of a provider of services to children funded under a federally approved medical assistance home- and community-based services waiver; Certified adoption investigators; A massage therapist

¹ 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 R.II).

Responses in this column can be yes when a state has universal mandated reporting (Table R.I) and all mandated reporters require training (Table R.II).

² 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 R.I).

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

Domain S: Screening reports of child abuse and neglect

Table S.I. Screening policies

	Response
1. Statewide centralized screening	Yes
2. How screening is decentralized	Logical Skip
3. Information required to screen in report	
a. Identifying information of child	Yes
b. Location and contact information of child and family	No
c. Type and 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 - Incident or allegation falls within Iowa's legal definition of child abuse

Table S.II. Screening decision process and activities

	Response	Required cases	Conditions or types of cases
1. Decision processes used during screening			
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	—	—
2. Variability of decision process used for screening			
a. Consistent statewide	Yes	—	—
b. Varies locally	No	—	—
3. Certain activities or information are required as part of screening	Yes		
4. Activities or information required as part of screening			
a. Safety or risk assessment	No	Logical Skip	Not applicable
b. Review agency records for prior involvement with child protective services	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
c. Other (specify)	Yes - Conduct criminal records checks on all adult subjects	Required for all	Not applicable
5. Types of safety or risk assessment used during screening			
a. Structured decision making	Logical Skip	—	—
b. Other (specify)	Logical Skip	—	—
6. Consistency of screening activities/information			
a. Consistent statewide	Yes	—	—
b. Varies locally (specify)	No	—	—

Table S.III. Screeners

	Response
1. Screener of abuse and neglect reports	
a. Caseworkers (frontline staff)	No
b. Case managers (supervisors)	No
c. Staff in specialized screening unit	Yes
d. Other (specify)	No
2. Qualifications of screener	
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 - 3 years of full-time experience in a social work capacity is required for individuals with a bachelor's degree; 2 years of full-time experience in a social work capacity is required for individuals with a bachelor's degree in social work; No experience required with a master's degree
f. Other (specify)	No
3. Degree in social work or related field for screeners	Yes, recommended or preferred, but not required
4. Tribal involvement in state or local public child welfare agency's process to screen Tribal cases	No, Tribes are not involved

Domain I: Investigations of child abuse and neglect

Table I.I. Investigations policies

	Response
1. Findings from child maltreatment investigations can lead to criminal penalties	Yes
2. Investigator for reports	
a. Caseworkers (frontline staff)	No
b. Case managers (supervisors)	No
c. Staff in specialized investigations unit	Yes
d. Law enforcement	No
e. Other (specify)	Yes - Multidisciplinary team
3. Qualifications of investigator	
a. Associate's degree	No
b. Bachelor's degree	Yes
c. Master's degree	Yes
d. Training for conducting investigations (specify)	Yes - Child Protective 200 Fundamentals for Child Protective Worker Practice
e. Years of experience (specify)	Yes - 3 years of full-time experience in a social work capacity is required for individuals with a bachelor's degree; 2 years of full-time experience in a social work capacity is required for individuals with a bachelor's degree in social work; No experience required with a master's degree
f. Other (specify)	No
4. Degree in social work or related field for investigators	Yes, recommended or preferred, but not required
5. Level of evidence required for substantiation (founded/indicated/confirmed)	Preponderance of evidence
6. Investigation determination can result in an "inconclusive" finding	No

Table I.II. Required activities/information for investigation

	Response	Required cases	Conditions or types of cases
1. Certain activities or information required for the investigation process	Yes		
2. Specific activities or information required for investigation			
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 some	If protective concerns are identified
e. Risk or safety assessment	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
f. Evaluation of home environment or home study	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
g. Interviews with child's parents, caregivers, or other adults residing in child's home	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
h. Check of criminal records for adults in home	Yes	Required for some	Request a history check from local law enforcement or complete an on-line criminal history check when any information is presented to suggest that such a check is advisable to be considered for the safety of the child, other children, or others. These situations include allegations of sexual abuse, domestic violence, and abuse of alcohol or other drugs.
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	Common when assessing sexual abuse, physical abuse, and presence of illegal drugs in a child's body
k. Mental health evaluation	Yes	Required for some	Common when assessing sexual abuse, physical abuse, and presence of illegal drugs in a child's body
l. Interview alleged perpetrator	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
m. Interview reporter or collateral source	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable

Table I.II (continued)

	Response	Required cases	Conditions or types of cases
n. Other (specify)	Yes - Identify strengths and needs of the child and of the child's parent, home, and family; Identify services available from the department and informal and formal services and other support available in the community to address the strengths and needs identified in the assessment; Consult with the child's family in offering services to the child and the child's family; Provide notice at completion of the assessment; Identification of the nature, extent, and cause of injuries if any; Identification of the person responsible for the alleged child abuse; Description of name, age, condition of the children in the same home as the child named in the report; Determination of abuse; Determination of whether juvenile court oversight is recommended; Determination of placement on the registry	Required for some	Required for all: (1) Identify strengths and needs of the child and of the child's parent, home, and family; (2) Identify services available from the department and informal and formal services and other support available in the community to address the strengths and needs identified in the assessment; (3) Consult with the child's family in offering services to the child and the child's family; (4) Provide notice at completion of the assessment. Required for child abuse assessments (not family assessments): (1) Identification of the nature, extent, and cause of injuries if any; (2) Identification of the person responsible for the alleged child abuse; (3) Description of name, age, condition of the children in the same home as the child named in the report; (4) Determination of abuse; Determination of whether juvenile court oversight is recommended; and 5) Determination of placement on the registry

Domain W: Child welfare response

Table W.I. Differential or alternative response

	Response
1. Differential/alternative response	Yes--implemented statewide
2. Types of maltreatment eligible for differential/alternative response	Only certain types of maltreatment are eligible
3. Types of maltreatment <u>not</u> eligible for differential/alternative response	
a. Cases involving child fatalities and near-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 - Prostitution of a child; Child sex trafficking; The alleged abuse type includes a category other than denial of critical care
4. Eligibility for differential/alternative response determined by a risk determination	Yes
5. Tools used to determine risk for differential/alternative response	Yes - Intake Screening Tool - Determining the Assessment Type, RC-0142
6. Risk level eligible for differential/alternative response	
a. No risk	No
b. Low risk	No
c. Moderate risk	No
d. Other (specify)	Yes - If none of the risk circumstances on the Intake Screening Tool, RC0142, are applicable
e. Unknown	No
7. Other types of cases or conditions eligible for differential/alternative response	
a. No other cases or conditions	No
b. No immediate safety concerns	Yes
c. No or few prior reports of child abuse or neglect	Yes
d. Other (specify)	Yes - All denial of critical care cases that do not allege imminent danger, death, or injury to a child
8. When is determination made for differential/alternative response	
a. At the time of screening to assign to differential response	No
b. After a report is screened in	Yes
c. Other (specify)	No
9. Referrals to community services for cases engaged in differential response	
a. No	No
b. Yes - for all cases	No
c. Yes - when families express interest	Yes
d. Yes - when there is a determination of risk	No
e. Yes - other (specify)	No

Table W.II. In-home services, foster care, and permanency

	Response
1. In-home services provided for unsubstantiated cases to maintain intact families	Yes--implemented statewide
2. In-home services provided post reunification	Yes--implemented statewide
3. Permanency	
a. Kinship guardianship as a permanency option	Yes
b. Subsidized guardianship	Yes
c. Subsidized kinship guardianship	Yes
d. Subsidized adoption	Yes
4. Foster care case management staff	
a. State/county public agency staff	Yes
b. Contracted provider staff	No
c. Tribal agency staff	No
5. Qualifications of foster care case managers	
a. Associate degree	No
b. Bachelor's degree	Yes
c. Master's degree	No
d. Training for case management (specify)	Yes - New worker training for case management staff (200.75 hours)
e. Years of experience (specify)	Yes - 4 years of full-time technical work experience involving direct contact with people overcoming social, economic, psychological, or health problems without a bachelor's degree; 1 year of full-time work experience can be substituted for 1 year of the required education for a combination of education and work experience
f. Other (specify)	No
6. Degree in social work or related field for foster care case managers	Yes, recommended or preferred, but not required

Table W.III. Tribal foster care and Tribes that directly operate Title IV-E programs through an agreement with HHS

	Response
1. Tribal involvement in foster care for Tribal cases	Yes, Tribes within state provide foster care - The Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa (Meskwaki Nation)
2. Tribes directly operate a Title IV-E program through an agreement with US HHS	No
3. Number of Tribes that directly operate a Title IV-E program through an agreement with US HHS	Logical Skip
4. Specify Tribes that directly operate a Title IV-E program through an agreement with US HHS	Not applicable

Table W.IV. Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)

	Response
1. Federal ICWA requirements codified in state law	Yes
2. Federal ICWA requirements that are codified in state law	
a. Identifying a child's Tribal status	Yes
b. Use of active efforts to prevent removal/reunite families	Yes
c. Notification of child's parents and Tribe for child custody proceedings	Yes
d. Actively working to involve a child's parents and Tribe during the custody proceedings	Yes
e. Identifying a foster care or pre-adoptive placement using ICWA preferences provisions	Yes
f. Use of qualified expert witnesses	Yes
3. State law codifying ICWA includes state-recognized Tribes	Yes

Table W.V. Extended foster care

	Response
1. Foster care extension for youth older than age 18	Yes
2. Age youth are allowed to remain in extended foster care	Up to age 21 (until 21st birthday)
3. Youth must proactively request, provide consent, or opt-in to receive extended foster care	Yes
4. Criteria for youth to remain in extended foster care	
a. There are no criteria to remain in extended foster care	No
b. Enrolled in school	Yes
c. Employed	Yes
d. Participating in workforce development/training program	Yes
e. Comply with independent living/self-sufficiency plan	Yes
f. Receive independent living or other services	No
g. Medical condition exemption	No
h. Other (specify)	Yes - Was in foster care or a state institution immediately before reaching age 18; Has continued in foster care or a state institution since reaching the age of 18; Will be placed in foster family care or supervised apartment living in Iowa; Will be placed in foster family care or supervised apartment living
5. Reentry to extended foster care allowed for youth older than age 18 who aged out or left foster care	Yes
6. Conditions for youth to reenter extended foster care	
a. Youth consent or sign a voluntary placement agreement	Yes
b. Youth develop an independent living plan	No
c. It is in the best interest of the youth	No
d. Other (specify)	Yes - Returns to supervised apartment living foster care before age 20 in order to complete a high school diploma or GED

Domain C: Child welfare system context

Table C.I. Child welfare system context

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

Supplemental Notes on State

Definitions

Medical neglect includes failure to provide treatment to cure or alleviate serious mental illness or disorder.

Denial of Critical Care (DCC) is the state's term for neglect and means the failure on the part of a person responsible for the care of a child to provide adequate food, shelter, clothing, medical or mental health treatment, supervision, or other care necessary for the child's health and welfare when financially able to do so, or when offered financial or other reasonable means to do so. DCC includes gross failure to meet the emotional needs of the child. Iowa's Supreme Court recognized that "[t]he law clearly gives parents who are so inclined the right to inflict reasonable corporal punishment in connection with the rearing of their children." While Iowa does not have Factitious Disorder by proxy as a specific category of abuse, such allegations would be assessed as DCC or potential Physical Abuse or Physical Abuse by Omission, depending on the details.

While Iowa doesn't have a specific category for institutional abuse/neglect, such allegations would be assessed under the most appropriate category/categories of abuse.

"Person responsible for the care of a child" means a parent, guardian or foster parent; a relative or any other person with whom the child resides and who assumes care or supervision of the child, without reference to the length of time or continuity of such residence; and an employee or agent of any public or private facility providing care for a child, including an institution, hospital, health care facility, group home, mental health center, residential treatment center, shelter care facility, detention center, or child care facility.

Reporting

Clergy members are not considered mandatory reporters unless they are functioning as social workers, counselors, or in another role described as a mandatory reporter.

Screening

An alleged perpetrator can be unknown, but information on how the unknown perpetrator could be considered a caretaker is necessary.

The following information is requested but not required to screen in a report:

1. Name and address of parents,
2. Child's present whereabouts,
3. Evidence of previous injury,
4. Names, ages, and condition of other children in household,
5. Name and address of person making the report,
6. How reporter knows this information,
7. History of abuse concerns,
8. Domestic violence,

9. Substance abuse,
10. Language barriers or disabilities, and
11. Presence of vicious animals, weapons, or illegal activity.

Reports are screened by centralized intake staff consisting of intake officers and supervisory staff.

Investigations

Law enforcement are not investigators for reports but will work collaboratively with child protection staff.

Child welfare response

Cases eligible for differential or alternative response require no prior reports of child abuse or neglect or few prior reports of abuse or neglect depending on the disposition of and the length of time since the most recently founded report of child abuse or neglect.

An intake screening tool is used during the screening process to determine whether the case is eligible for differential response, which includes several considerations but not a risk determination.

Abandonment of an infant would be eligible for differential response if the only allegation was denial of critical care.

State Statutes and Policy Documentation Sources

Abuse of Children, Iowa Admin. Code § 175 (2020).

Child Abuse, Iowa Code § 235A (2023).

Child and Family Services, Iowa Code § 234 (2023).

Foster Care Placement and Services, Iowa Code § 202 (2021).

Human Trafficking, Iowa Code § 710A (2021)

Indian Child Welfare Act, Iowa Code § 232B (2003).

Iowa Department of Administrative Services. (2012). Social Worker 2.

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Iowa Department of Human Services. (2013). Child Welfare Policy Update: Differential Response System.

Iowa Department of Human Services. (2019). Family Risk Assessment Guidance.

Iowa Department of Human Services. (2020). Employees' Manual, Title 18, Child Protective Services Assessment.

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Iowa Department of Human Services. (2020). Employees' Manual, Title 18, Family-Centered Services.

Iowa Department of Human Services. (2020). Employees' Manual, Title 18, Family Services Appendix.

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Iowa Department of Human Services. (2022). Annual Progress and Services Report.

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Iowa Department of Human Services. (2022). SWCM and SWCM Supervisor - New Worker Training Plan FY22.

Iowa Department of Human Services. (2023). Child Abuse: A Guide for Mandatory Reporters.

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Iowa Department of Human Services. (2023). Employees' Manual, Title 18, Foster Family Home.

Juvenile Justice, Iowa Code § 232 (2022).

Newborn Infant Custody Release Procedures, Iowa Code § 233 (2019).

Protection of the Family, Dependent Persons, Residents of Health Care Facilities and Older Individuals, Iowa Code § 726 (2021).

Subsidized Adoptions, Iowa Code § 201 (2018).