

## SCAN Policies Database State Profile 2023: Louisiana

### 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](mailto:SCANPoliciesDatabase@mathematica-mpr.com).

## State identifying information

**Table I. State Identifying information**

	Response
State abbreviation	LA
State Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) code	22
Census region code	South
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
<b>1. Types of maltreatment included in state definition</b>	
a. Physical abuse	Yes
b. Excessive corporal punishment	Yes
c. Sexual abuse	Yes
d. Emotional maltreatment	Yes
e. Neglect	Yes
f. Inadequate clothing	Yes
g. Inadequate shelter	Yes
h. Malnourishment, inadequate food	Yes
i. Medical neglect, inadequate medical care	Yes
j. Failure to thrive	Yes
k. Educational neglect	No
l. Abandonment	Yes
m. Injurious environment. Likelihood of harm to child's health, physical well-being	Yes
n. Drug lab. Child present within structure where methamphetamine is being created	Yes
o. Inadequate supervision. Failure to meet parent or caretaker responsibilities	Yes
p. Drug or alcohol misuse. Parental drug or alcohol misuse causing harm to child	Yes
q. Prenatal exposure to drugs or alcohol	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)	Yes - Coerced abortion
<b>2. Subtypes of maltreatment included in state definition</b>	
a. Subtypes of maltreatment considered abuse	Physical abuse includes female genital mutilation, punishment, factitious disorder by proxy, shaken baby syndrome, and coerced abortion; Sexual abuse includes sexual trafficking
b. Subtypes of maltreatment considered neglect	Neglect includes abandonment, prenatal exposure to drugs/alcohol, inadequate clothing, medical neglect, lack of shelter, parental substance use, illegal substance use, failure to thrive, inability to meet parent responsibilities (i.e. lack of adequate supervision), and malnutrition.

Table D.1 (*continued*)

	Response
c. Subtypes of maltreatment considered other than abuse or neglect	Not applicable
<b>3. Level of harm included in state's definition of child maltreatment</b>	
a. Inflicts harm	Yes
b. Imminent danger or substantial risk of harm	Yes
<b>4. Differences in level of harm included in state's definition of child maltreatment by type of maltreatment</b>	No
<b>5. Type of harm or injury specified in state's definition of child maltreatment</b>	
a. Death, bodily injury, impairment of physical condition	Yes
b. Impairment of mental or emotional condition	Yes
c. Harmful environment, conditions	Yes
d. Type of harm or injury not specified	No
e. Other (specify)	No
<b>6. Variation in extent of injury or harm by maltreatment type in the state's definition of child maltreatment</b>	No
<b>7. Perpetrator identified as part of state's definition of child maltreatment</b>	Yes
<b>8. Types of perpetrators specified as part of state's definition of child maltreatment</b>	
a. Any person	No
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
<b>9. Types of perpetrators vary by type of maltreatment</b>	No
<b>10. Explanation of variation in types of perpetrator by maltreatment type</b>	Not applicable
<b>11. Child age included in definition of child maltreatment</b>	Yes
<b>12. Specific child age in definition of child maltreatment</b>	Under age 18
<b>13. Variability of child age by type of maltreatment</b>	No

**Table D.II. Child maltreatment definition exemptions**

	Response
<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, 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
<b>2. Safe haven exemption included in state's definition of child maltreatment</b>	
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 - 60 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
<b>1. State's definition of fatalities or deaths caused by child maltreatment</b>	
a. Not specified or defined	No
b. Injury from abuse or neglect caused death	Yes
c. Abuse or neglect was contributing factor in death	No
d. Death of child who was in child welfare custody or foster care	No
e. Other (specify)	Yes - Deaths thought or alleged to be of a suspicious origin
<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>	Yes, reviews are required for all or some cases
<b>3. State's definition of near-fatalities or near-deaths caused by child maltreatment</b>	
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)	Yes - Injuries thought or alleged to be of a suspicious origin
<b>4. State conducts case reviews with a review team or similar review process for near-fatalities caused by child abuse or neglect</b>	Yes, reviews are required for all or some cases

## Domain R: Reporting child abuse and neglect

Table R.I. Reporting policies

	Response
<b>1. Statewide centralized reporting</b>	Yes
<b>2. Decentralized reporting</b>	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, 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	No
c. Professional license suspended or revoked	No
d. Other (specify)	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 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
<b>12. Anonymity of reporter</b>	General public (not mandated reporters) can remain anonymous
<b>13. Tribal involvement in state or local public child welfare agency's process to accept reports of Tribal cases</b>	No, Tribes are not involved
<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
<b>15. Accepts reports of risk without an allegation of child maltreatment (risk-only reports)</b>	No

**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 <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	Yes	Yes	Yes
h. Medical or dental professionals	Yes	No	Yes
i. Substance abuse disorder treatment providers	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
j. Mental health, counselors, or other social service professionals	Yes	No	Yes
k. Police or other law enforcement	Yes	No	Yes
l. Emergency medical technicians, firefighters, or other emergency personnel	Yes	No	Yes
m. Judges	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
n. District attorneys or other attorneys	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
o. Guardians 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	Yes	No	Yes
u. Coroners or medical examiners	Yes	No	Yes
v. Staff or contractors of state and county agencies	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip

Table R.II (*continued*)

	Response	Response	Response
w. Other type of mandated reporter (specify)	Yes - Mediators; Parenting coordinator	No	Yes - Mediators; Parenting coordinator

<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 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).

<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 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	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. Other (specify)	Yes - Any immediate safety concern; The reporter's reason to believe the child was abused or neglected; Threats to child's safety

**Table S.II. Screening decision process and activities**

	Response	Required cases	Conditions or types of cases
<b>1. Decision processes used during screening</b>			
a. Supervisory review	Yes	Required for all	—
b. Team-based decision	No	Logical Skip	—
c. Individual screener	No	Logical Skip	—
d. Other (specify)	No	Logical Skip	—
e. Unknown	No	—	—
<b>2. Variability of decision process used for screening</b>			
a. Consistent statewide	Yes	—	—
b. Varies locally	No	—	—
<b>3. Certain activities or information are required as part of screening</b>	Yes		
<b>4. Activities or 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 - Extent and circumstances (threats of danger); Child functioning and vulnerability; Adult functioning/parenting practices (caretaker protective capacities)	Required for all	Not applicable
<b>5. Types of safety or 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	—	—

**Table S.III. Screeners**

	Response
<b>1. Screener of abuse and neglect reports</b>	
a. Caseworkers (frontline staff)	Yes
b. Case managers (supervisors)	No
c. Staff in specialized screening unit	Yes
d. Other (specify)	No
<b>2. Qualifications of screener</b>	
a. Associate's degree	No
b. Bachelor's degree	Yes
c. Master's degree	No
d. Training for screening (specify)	No
e. Years of experience (specify)	Yes - Six years of full-time work experience in any field may be substituted for the required bachelor's degree OR candidates without a bachelor's degree may combine work experience and college credit to substitute for the bachelor's degree
f. Other (specify)	No
<b>3. Degree in social work or related field for screeners</b>	No
<b>4. Tribal involvement in state or local public child welfare agency's process to screen Tribal cases</b>	No, Tribes are not involved

## Domain I: Investigations of child abuse and neglect

Table I.I. Investigations policies

	Response
<b>1. Findings from child maltreatment investigations can 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	No
e. Other (specify)	No
<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)	No
e. Years of experience (specify)	Yes - Six years of full-time work experience in any field may be substituted for the required bachelor's degree OR candidates without a bachelor's degree may combine work experience and college credit to substitute for the bachelor's degree
f. Other (specify)	No
<b>4. Degree in social work or related field for investigators</b>	No
<b>5. Level of evidence required for substantiation (founded/indicated/confirmed)</b>	Preponderance of evidence
<b>6. Investigation determination can result in an "inconclusive" finding</b>	Yes

**Table I.II. Required activities/information for investigation**

	Response	Required cases	Conditions or types of cases
<b>1. Certain activities or 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	No	Logical Skip	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; Any case may require medical evaluation, including cases with an allegation of inadequate food, and cases with possible internal injuries
k. Mental health evaluation	Yes	Required for some	Emotional maltreatment; Cases where this approach might be helpful to elicit information; Cases where the psychological condition of the child/parent could potentially cause further harm to the child
l. Interview alleged perpetrator	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
m. Interview reporter or collateral source	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
n. Other (specify)	Yes - Pictures of injuries and/or environment at the case worker's discretion	Required for some	Child fatalities; Substance-exposed infants; Physical abuse; Sexual abuse; Neglect



## Domain W: Child welfare response

Table W.I. Differential or alternative response

	Response
1. Differential/alternative response	No
2. Types of maltreatment eligible for differential/alternative response	Logical Skip
3. Types of maltreatment <u>not</u> eligible for differential/alternative response	Logical Skip
4. Eligibility for differential/alternative response determined by a risk determination	Logical Skip
5. Tools used to determine risk for differential/alternative response	Logical Skip
6. Risk level eligible for differential/alternative response	Logical Skip
7. Other types of cases or conditions eligible for differential/alternative response	Logical Skip
8. When is determination made for differential/alternative response	Logical Skip
9. Referrals to community services for cases engaged in differential response	Logical Skip

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

	Response
<b>1. In-home services provided for unsubstantiated cases to maintain intact families</b>	Yes--implemented statewide
<b>2. In-home services provided post reunification</b>	Yes--implemented statewide
<b>3. Permanency</b>	
a. Kinship guardianship as a permanency option	Yes
b. Subsidized guardianship	Yes
c. Subsidized kinship guardianship	Yes
d. Subsidized adoption	Yes
<b>4. Foster care case management staff</b>	
a. State/county public agency staff	Yes
b. Contracted provider staff	No
c. Tribal agency staff	No
<b>5. 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)	No
e. Years of experience (specify)	Yes - Six years of full-time work experience in any field may be substituted for the required bachelor's degree OR candidates without a bachelor's degree may combine work experience and college credit to substitute for the bachelor's degree
f. Other (specify)	No
<b>6. Degree in social work or related field for foster care case managers</b>	No

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

	Response
<b>1. Tribal involvement in foster care for Tribal cases</b>	No, Tribes within state do not provide foster care
<b>2. Tribes directly operate a Title IV-E program through an agreement with US HHS</b>	No
<b>3. Number of Tribes that directly operate a Title IV-E program through an agreement with US HHS</b>	Logical Skip
<b>4. Specify Tribes that directly operate a Title IV-E program through an agreement with US HHS</b>	Not applicable

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

	Response
1. Federal ICWA requirements codified in state law	No
2. Federal ICWA requirements that are codified in state law	Logical Skip
3. State law codifying ICWA includes state-recognized Tribes	Logical Skip

**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	No
f. Receive independent living or other services	No
g. Medical condition exemption	Yes
h. Other (specify)	No
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	Yes
c. It is in the best interest of the youth	No
d. Other (specify)	No

## 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

Coerced abortion is defined as the use of force, intimidation, threat of force, threat of deprivation of food and shelter, or the deprivation of food and shelter by a parent or any other person to compel a female child to undergo an abortion against her will.

The following situations are considered non-reports that do not meet the criteria of a report of child abuse or neglect:

1. Reports alleging that a family is about to be evicted without other allegations of abuse or neglect;
2. Parental failure to provide orthodontia for cosmetic purposes or immunizations except when the failure may be life-threatening due to the child's medical condition;
3. Sexual activity between unrelated minors when the youngest child is 13 years or older and parents/caregivers are not aware of or are not permitting the activity;
4. Lack of supervision on the basis of a single accidental occurrence or injury (e.g., accidental poison or medication ingestion, fall, or other accidental injury), unless there are additional indicators or allegations of abuse or neglect;
5. A newborn experiencing harm, withdrawal or a positive toxicology screen for methadone when the methadone was prescribed to the mother for substance abuse treatment with no other allegations or indications of abuse or neglect.

Lastly, reports of parent's or caretaker's failure to pay for elementary school lunches should be determined to be a "not accepted report" in the following circumstances: (1) There is no allegation or information that the child is receiving insufficient food at home and (2) There are no other indications of abuse or neglect; and, the only information is that the parent has failed to pay for school lunches.

### Reporting

If a newborn exhibits withdrawal symptoms that are believed to be due to the mother's use of a controlled dangerous substance in a lawfully prescribed manner, without suspicion of prenatal neglect, the physician must submit a Physician Notification Form. A Physician Notification Form is the mechanism to notify the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) of a newborn who exhibits symptoms of withdrawal, or other observable and harmful effects in the child's physical appearance or functioning, that a physician believes are due to the use of controlled dangerous substance, in a lawfully prescribed manner by the mother during pregnancy. This notification does not constitute a report of child abuse or prenatal neglect, nor does it require prosecution for any illegal action.

## **Investigations**

Child Protective Services (CPS) must inform the appropriate Tribe if a child is deemed to be a Tribal child. Tribal agencies can be involved in the investigation process and take over it completely, if desired, or co-investigate with CPS.

## **Child welfare response**

Tribes can provide foster care placements on Tribal cases, but this has not yet occurred.

## State Statutes and Policy Documentation Sources

Child Abuse Reporting and Investigation, La. Child. Code Ann. § 6-5 (2023).

Criminal Code, La. Rev. Stat. § 14-1 (2022).

Guardianship Subsidy Program, La. Admin. Code. § 67-41 (2019).

Intake, La. Admin. Code. § 67-13 (2002).

Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services. (n.d). Adoption Services.

Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services. (n.d). Child Protective Services.

Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services. (n.d). Family Services.

Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services. (n.d). Foster Care.

Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services. (n.d.). Substance exposed newborns: Mandatory reporting and notifications [Brochure].

Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services. (2018). DCFS Departmental Policy.

Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services. (2019). Aging Out Report.

Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services. (2020). Family Services.

Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services. (2021). About Safe Haven.

Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services. (2021). Child welfare specialist trainee/1/2/3 [Job description].

Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services. (2023). Extended Foster Care Fact Sheet.

Louisiana Office of Community Services. (2011). Structured decision making: Screening and Response Assessment Policy and Procedures Manual. National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

Miscellaneous Crimes and Offenses, La. Rev. Stat. § 14-2 (2019).

Preliminary Provisions; Definitions, La. Child. Code Ann. § 6-1 (2022).