

SCAN Policies Database State Profile 2023: Pennsylvania

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	PA
State Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) code	42
Census region code	Northeast
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	No
g. Inadequate shelter	No
h. Malnourishment, inadequate food	No
i. Medical neglect, inadequate medical care	Yes
j. Failure to thrive	No
k. Educational neglect	No
l. Abandonment	Yes
m. Injurious environment. Likelihood of harm to child's health, physical well-being	Yes
n. Drug lab. Child present within structure where methamphetamine is being created	Yes
o. Inadequate supervision. Failure to meet parent or caretaker responsibilities	Yes
p. Drug or alcohol misuse. Parental drug or alcohol misuse causing harm to child	Yes
q. Prenatal exposure to drugs or alcohol	No
r. Illicit substance. Illegally providing a controlled substance to a child	Yes
s. Human trafficking, involuntary servitude, sexual servitude	Yes
t. Female genital mutilation	No
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	No
z. Other definition (specify)	No
2. Subtypes of maltreatment included in state definition	
a. Subtypes of maltreatment considered abuse	Not applicable
b. Subtypes of maltreatment considered neglect	Not applicable
c. Subtypes of maltreatment considered other than abuse or neglect	Not applicable
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

Table D.I (continued)

	Response
4. Differences in level of harm included in state's definition of child maltreatment by type of maltreatment	No
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	No
d. Type of harm or injury not specified	No
e. Other (specify)	Yes - Exposure to a drug lab that is being investigated by law enforcement
6. Variation in extent of injury or harm by maltreatment type in the state's definition of child maltreatment	Yes - For certain maltreatment types, such as physical abuse and sexual abuse, 'creating a likelihood' may be sufficient cause for an allegation to be levied
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	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)	Yes - A person 14 years of age or older and responsible for the child's welfare or having direct contact with children as an employee of child-care services, a school or through a program, activity or service; An individual who is 14 years of age or older who resides in the same home as the child; An individual 18 years of age or older who does not reside in the same home as the child but is related within the third degree of consanguinity or affinity by birth or adoption to the child
9. Types of perpetrators vary by type of maltreatment	Yes
10. Explanation of variation in types of perpetrator by maltreatment type	Any person 18 years of age or older who engages a child in severe forms of trafficking in persons or sex trafficking; For failing to protect, only specific individuals can be considered a perpetrator: (1) parent/spouse or former spouse of parent, (2) paramour or former paramour of parent, (3) person 18 years or older responsible for the child's welfare, or (4) person 18 years or older residing in the same home
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 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	No
e. Religious observance; parent relies on spiritual or religious forms of medical treatment	Yes
f. Other exemption (specify)	Yes - Use of force for supervision, control and safety purposes; Participation in events that involve physical contact with child; Child-on-child contact; Defensive force; Environmental factors beyond the control of the parent or person responsible for the child
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 - 28 days old or younger
d. No intent to return	No
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	No
d. Death of child who was in child welfare custody or foster care	No
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 are required for all or some cases

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, some mandated reporters
6. Penalties for failure to report	Yes, some mandated reporters
7. Specific penalties for failure to report	
a. Criminal charges	Yes
b. Civil charges	No
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	No
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, there are no Tribes within the state
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	Yes	Yes	Yes
g. Athletic coaches or staff	Yes	No	Yes
h. Medical or dental professionals	Yes	Yes	Yes
i. Substance abuse disorder treatment providers	Yes	Yes	No
j. Mental health, counselors, or other social service professionals	Yes	Yes	Yes
k. Police or other law enforcement	Yes	No	Yes
l. Emergency medical technicians, firefighters, or other emergency personnel	Yes	No	Yes
m. Judges	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
n. District attorneys or other attorneys	Yes	No	Yes
o. Guardians ad litem or court-appointed special advocates	Yes	Yes	No
p. Other court personnel	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
q. Shelter staff	Yes	Yes	No
r. Those who work in fields processing or monitoring print, film, or computer images	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
s. Religious clergy	Yes	No	Yes
t. Volunteers	Yes	No	No
u. Coroners or medical examiners	Yes	Yes	No
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 - An employee of a public library, who has direct contact with children in the course of employment; An independent contractor; An individual supervised or managed by a mandatory reporter, who has direct contact with children in the course of employment	Yes - An employee of a public library, who has direct contact with children in the course of employment; An independent contractor; An individual supervised or managed by a mandatory reporter, who has direct contact with children in the course of employment	Yes - An employee of a public library, who has direct contact with children in the course of employment; An independent contractor; An individual supervised or managed by a mandatory reporter, who has direct contact with children in the course of employment

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	No
2. How screening is decentralized	Each county/region has own screening unit
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)	No

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	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
b. Review agency records for prior involvement with child protective services	No	Logical Skip	Not applicable
c. Other (specify)	No	Logical Skip	Not applicable
5. Types of safety or risk assessment used during screening			
a. Structured decision making	No	—	—
b. Other (specify)	Yes - Pennsylvania Safety Assessment and Management Process	—	—
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)	Yes
b. Case managers (supervisors)	Yes
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	No
d. Training for screening (specify)	Yes - Foundations of Pennsylvania Child Welfare Practice: Building Competence, Confidence, and Compassion
e. Years of experience (specify)	Yes - 2 years of experience as a County Social Services Aide 3 and 2 years of college-level coursework; OR any equivalent combination of experience and training, which includes 12 college credits and 1 year of experience as a County Social Services Aide 3 or in a similar position performing paraprofessional case management functions; Experience is not required for candidates with a bachelor'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, there are no Tribes within the state

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)	Yes
b. Case managers (supervisors)	No
c. Staff in specialized investigations unit	Yes
d. Law enforcement	Yes
e. Other (specify)	No
3. Qualifications of investigator	
a. Associate's degree	No
b. Bachelor's degree	Yes
c. Master's degree	No
d. Training for conducting investigations (specify)	Yes - Foundations of Pennsylvania Child Welfare Practice: Building Competence, Confidence, and Compassion
e. Years of experience (specify)	Yes - 2 years of experience as a County Social Services Aide 3 with 2 years of college level course work; OR any equivalent combination of experience and training which includes 12 college credits and 1 year of experience as a County Social Services Aide 3 or in a similar position performing paraprofessional case management functions; Experience is not required for candidates with a bachelor'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)	Credible or substantial 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 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; When investigating a report of suspected serious mental injury, sexual abuse or exploitation or serious physical neglect
k. Mental health evaluation	Yes	Required for some	Any case deemed to have potentially/visibly caused mental health or emotional 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 - Photographs of injuries	Required for some	When investigating a report of suspected child abuse in which a child has sustained visible injury, the county agency shall, whenever possible and appropriate, take, cause to be taken or obtain color photographs of the injury

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
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	Yes
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 - Foundations of Pennsylvania Child Welfare Practice: Building Competence, Confidence, and Compassion
e. Years of experience (specify)	Yes - 2 years of experience as a County Social Services Aide 3 and 2 years of college level course work; OR any equivalent combination of experience and training which includes 12 college credits and 1 year of experience as a County Social Services Aide 3 or in a similar position performing paraprofessional case management functions; Experience is not required for candidates with a bachelor's degree
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	No, there are no Tribes within the state
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	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	No
b. Youth develop an independent living plan	No
c. It is in the best interest of the youth	No
d. Other (specify)	Yes - Same eligibility criteria as those who remain in extended foster care

Domain C: Child welfare system context

Table C.I. Child welfare system context

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

Supplemental Notes on State

Definitions

To be considered a perpetrator of child abuse or neglect, a caregiver or household member must be age 14 or older.

Health care providers are required to give notice (may not constitute a child abuse or neglect report) if a child younger than age 1 has been determined, based on standards of professional practice, to have been born affected by (1) substance use or withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug exposure or (2) a fetal alcohol spectrum disorder.

Child Protective Services (CPS) includes those services and activities provided by the department and each county agency for child maltreatment cases. General Protective Services (GPS) are supports and services provided when protective services are required in non-maltreatment cases. GPS cases may rise to the level of maltreatment and be transferred to CPS if they meet one of the 10 sub-categories under child abuse as stated in state statutes.

Cases involving female genital mutilation may fall under the category of serious bodily injury.

Reporting

The following types of professionals are considered mandated reporters only in certain cases: district attorneys or other attorneys (only if working with or for an agency that is responsible for the care, supervision, or guidance of children) and homeless shelter staff (depends on the nature of the shelter and if it is child-focused for example, parent or child program, program for unaccompanied minors).

The following mandated reporters are only required to have training in certain cases: camp counselors, camp directors or administrators (training required only if the camp is licensed), medical professionals (training required for those who specialize in or work with children), and guardian ad litem or court-appointed special advocates (training required if under the supervision of an institution, agency, or facility regulated by the Department).

Screening

Some counties have staff in specialized screening units to conduct screening.

Investigations

Some counties have a special investigations unit.

Child welfare response

In-home services are provided for unsubstantiated cases if the county agency concludes the child is in danger of future child abuse.

State Statutes and Policy Documentation Sources

- Child Protective Services, 23 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 63 (2021).
- Children in Foster Care Act, 11 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 35 (2011).
- Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare. (n.d.). Safety assessment and planning process.
- Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare. (1997). Risk Assessment Policies and Procedures.
- Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare. (2008). Frequency and tracking of caseworker visits to children in federally defined foster care.
- Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare. (2010). Permanent legal custodian policy.
- Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare. (2012). Revised Fiscal Year 2013-14 Children, Youth and Families Needs-Based Plan and Fiscal Year 2012-13 Implementation Plan Instructions.
- Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare. (2018). County Caseworker 1. Falsification and Intimidation, 18 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 49 (2014).
- Juvenile Matters, 42 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 63 (2023).
- Newborn Protection, 23 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 65 (2018).
- Offenses Against the Family, 18 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 43 (2018).
- Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, Children Youth & Families Bulletin. (2010). Permanent legal custodian policy.
- Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, Children Youth & Families Bulletin. (2015). Implementation of Child Fatality and Near Fatality Review and Report Protocols as Required by Act 33 of 2008 and Act 44 of 2014.
- Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, Children Youth & Families Bulletin. (2018). Revised and reissued Indian child welfare act.
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- Pennsylvania Department of Human Services. (2021). Permissive Reporters Frequently Asked Questions.
- Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare. (2019). The safety assessment and management process reference manual.
- Protective Services, 55. Pa. Code Chapter 3130 (2003).
- Protective Services, 55. Pa. Code Chapter 3490 (2003).
- The Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center. (2019). The Casework Process.