

## SCAN Policies Database State Profile 2023: South Carolina

### Overview of the SCAN Policies Database

The State Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) Policies Database compiles data on the definitions and policies that states use in their surveillance of child maltreatment, along with data on associated risk and protective factors. The SCAN Policies Database is funded by the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation in collaboration with the Children's Bureau in the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Mathematica leads this project in partnership with Child Trends.

The project's purpose is to review and compile information from states' definitions and policies to create a database of those definitions and policies that can be used for analysis. The SCAN Policies Database is a resource for researchers, analysts, child welfare agency staff, and others interested in examining differences between states in their definitions and policies on child maltreatment and how they change over time.

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### Content

The scope of the SCAN Policies Database includes information about state definitions and policies related to child abuse and neglect for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The SCAN Policies Database team gathered this information through a document collection, review, and coding process. The team obtained input from states on data collection through a confirmation and verification process. More information about these data collection procedures can be found in the data user's guide and data collection protocol, accessible at <https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/data-use-resources>.

The SCAN Policies Database 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

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## State profile

This SCAN Policies Database state profile is a summary of the information collected about the definitions and policies for the identified state. 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.

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## Data use resources

Several data use resources are available to support users of the SCAN Policies Database:

- **Data user's guide:** The guide has detailed information about the data set, including the process used to collect and review the data, the scope of information included in the data set, guidance on using the data, such as how to link the data with other data sources, and notes about specific topics. The data user's guide includes appendices, 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/>).

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## More information

More information about the SCAN Policies Database can be found at <https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com>. General inquiries can be submitted to [SCANPoliciesDatabase@mathematica-mpr.com](mailto:SCANPoliciesDatabase@mathematica-mpr.com).

## State identifying information

**Table I. State Identifying information**

	Response
State abbreviation	SC
State Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) code	45
Census region code	South
State verified coding of information	No
State confirmed documents reviewed	No
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	No
k. Educational neglect	Yes
l. Abandonment	Yes
m. Injurious environment. Likelihood of harm to child's health, physical well-being	No
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	No
q. Prenatal exposure to drugs or alcohol	Yes
r. Illicit substance. Illegally providing a controlled substance to a child	No
s. Human trafficking, involuntary servitude, sexual servitude	Yes
t. Female genital mutilation	Yes
u. Shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma	No
v. Failure to protect. Failure to protect from harm	No
w. Domestic violence. Exposure to domestic violence	Yes
x. Factitious disorder by proxy	No
y. Institutional abuse/neglect	Yes
z. Other definition (specify)	Yes - Encourages, condones, or approves the commission of delinquent acts by the child and those acts are shown to be the result of the encouragement, condonation, or approval
<b>2. Subtypes of maltreatment included in state definition</b>	
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

Table D.1 (*continued*)

	Response
<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>	Yes - Definition of abandonment does not require harm or risk or harm; Definition of approving commission of delinquent acts does not specify harm or risk or harm; All other types of maltreatment include harm or risk of harm
<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	No
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>	Yes - Mental injury (emotional maltreatment) specifies impairment of mental or emotional condition; Physical injury specifies death or permanent or temporary disfigurement or impairment of any bodily organ or function
<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	No
f. Household member	No
g. Person responsible for child	Yes
h. Other (specify)	No
<b>9. Types of perpetrators vary by type of maltreatment</b>	Yes
<b>10. Explanation of variation in types of perpetrator by maltreatment type</b>	The perpetrator is not defined for human trafficking but state statute notes it extends beyond parent, guardian, or other person responsible for the child's welfare
<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)	Yes - Child's absences from school may not be considered abuse or neglect unless the school has made efforts to bring about the child's attendance and those efforts were unsuccessful because of the parents' refusal to cooperate
<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	No
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)	Yes - The person must leave the infant in the physical custody of a staff member or employee of the safe haven

**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	Yes
d. Death of child who was in child welfare custody or foster care	Yes
e. Other (specify)	No
<b>2. State conducts case reviews with a child fatality review team or a similar review process for fatalities caused by child abuse or neglect</b>	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	Yes
b. General reference to a serious or critical condition or injury that is life threatening with a substantial risk of death	No
c. Specific injury or specific medical treatment or intervention (specify)	No
d. Other (specify)	No
<b>4. State conducts case reviews with a review team or similar review process for near-fatalities caused by child abuse or neglect</b>	No

## Domain R: Reporting child abuse and neglect

Table R.I. Reporting policies

	Response
<b>1. Statewide centralized reporting</b>	No
<b>2. Decentralized reporting</b>	Each county/region has own reporting hotline
<b>3. Standard for reporting child maltreatment</b>	
a. Known abuse and neglect	No
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>	Unknown
<b>6. Penalties for failure to report</b>	Yes, all mandated reporters
<b>7. Specific penalties for failure to report</b>	
a. Criminal charges	Yes
b. Civil charges	No
c. Professional licensure suspended or revoked	No
d. Other (specify)	No
<b>8. Penalties for false reporting</b>	Yes
<b>9. Specific penalties for false reporting</b>	
a. Criminal charges	Yes
b. Civil charges	Yes
c. Professional license suspended or revoked	No
d. Other (specify)	No
<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)	No
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
<b>12. Anonymity of reporter</b>	All 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	No
b. State requires all SENs to be reported as child maltreatment	Yes
c. Other (specify)	No
<b>15. Accepts reports of risk without an allegation of child maltreatment (risk-only reports)</b>	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 <sup>1</sup>	Subject to penalties for failure to report <sup>2</sup>
a. Foster parents	Yes	Unknown	Yes
b. School staff - teachers	Yes	Unknown	Yes
c. School bus drivers or other transportation staff	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
d. Before- /after-school program staff	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
e. Child care staff	Yes	Unknown	Yes
f. Camp counselors, directors, or administrators	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
g. Athletic coaches or staff	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
h. Medical or dental professionals	Yes	Unknown	Yes
i. Substance abuse disorder treatment providers	Yes	Unknown	Yes
j. Mental health, counselors, or other social service professionals	Yes	Unknown	Yes
k. Police or other law enforcement	Yes	Unknown	Yes
l. Emergency medical technicians, firefighters, or other emergency personnel	Yes	Unknown	Yes
m. Judges	Yes	Unknown	Yes
n. District attorneys or other attorneys	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
o. Guardians ad litem or court-appointed special advocates	Yes	Unknown	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	Unknown	Yes
s. Religious clergy	Yes	Unknown	Yes
t. Volunteers	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
u. Coroners or medical examiners	Yes	Unknown	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 - Undertaker, funeral home director, or employee of a funeral home	Unknown	Yes - Undertaker, funeral home director, or employee of a funeral home

<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
<b>1. Statewide centralized screening</b>	No
<b>2. How screening is decentralized</b>	Each county/region has own screening unit
<b>3. Information required to screen in 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)	No
f. Other (specify)	Yes - How to locate parent or caretaker; Information and ages of other children in the family; Relationship of reporter to victim and family; Prior known abuse or neglect; Reporter's source of information; Reporter's level of knowledge of the alleged abuse or neglect

**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 - Identifying and other information of reporter; Identifying and other information of family/household members; Information on prior maltreatment	Required for all	Not applicable
<b>5. Types of safety or risk assessment used during screening</b>			
a. Structured decision making	No	—	—
b. Other (specify)	Yes - Child Protection Services (CPS) Assessment Tool	—	—
<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)	No
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 - 1 year of experience in a field related to social work is required for applicants without a bachelor's degree in social work, behavioral, or social science discipline; Experience as a social worker is required for applicants with bachelor's or master's degree in social work
f. Other (specify)	No
<b>3. Degree in social work or related field for screeners</b>	Yes, recommended or preferred, but not required
<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)	Yes
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 - 1 year experience in a related field; Experience as a professional Social Worker with a bachelor's or master's degree in a Social Work or Social Welfare program
f. Other (specify)	No
<b>4. Degree in social work or related field for investigators</b>	Yes, recommended or preferred, but not required
<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	No	Logical Skip	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	Child fatalities; Sexual abuse; Head injury in children under the age of 3; Burns in children under age 3; Fractures in children under age 5; Bruises located on the face, neck, chest, back, buttocks with a pattern or multiple in number; Sexually transmitted diseases in children under age 11
k. Mental health evaluation	No	Logical Skip	Not applicable
l. Interview alleged perpetrator	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable



Table I.II (continued)

	Response	Required cases	Conditions or types of cases
m. Interview reporter or collateral source	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
n. Other (specify)	Yes - Notify law enforcement, when necessary; Make contact with Family Independence/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to assist in locating the family; Notify foster care staff of infant coming into custody under Safe Haven Act; Consider barriers to communication (e.g., Limited English Proficiency, Sensory Impaired); Identify race/ethnicity and immigrant status of child and family; Determine and document tribal membership; Notify the subject of the report that it is being investigated; Screen for domestic violence, substance abuse, mental illness or criminal activity of parents; Assess school performance, attendance, and behaviors; Assess responses of parent/guardian to abuse/neglect; Photographs; X-rays or other tests	Required for some	Photographs, X-rays, and other tests are only required for physical abuse, and only when extreme enough to be warranted;; Notifying law enforcement is only required for sexual abuse; All other activities are required for all cases

## Domain W: Child welfare response

Table W.I. Differential or alternative response

	Response
<b>1. Differential/alternative response</b>	Yes--implemented statewide
<b>2. Types of maltreatment eligible for differential/alternative response</b>	All types of maltreatment are eligible
<b>3. Types of maltreatment <u>not</u> eligible for differential/alternative response</b>	Logical Skip
<b>4. Eligibility for differential/alternative response determined by a risk determination</b>	Yes
<b>5. Tools used to determine risk for differential/alternative response</b>	Yes - Intake CPS Assessment Tool; Safety Threshold Criteria (ISOLVE)
<b>6. Risk level eligible for differential/alternative response</b>	
a. No risk	No
b. Low risk	Yes
c. Moderate risk	Yes
d. Other (specify)	No
e. Unknown	No
<b>7. Other types of cases or conditions eligible for differential/alternative response</b>	
a. No other cases or conditions	No
b. No immediate safety concerns	Yes
c. No or few prior reports of child abuse or neglect	No
d. Other (specify)	No
<b>8. When is determination made for differential/alternative response</b>	
a. At the time of screening to assign to differential response	Yes
b. After a report is screened in	No
c. Other (specify)	No
<b>9. Referrals to community services for cases engaged in differential response</b>	
a. No	No
b. Yes - for all cases	Yes
c. Yes - when families express interest	No
d. Yes - when there is a determination of risk	No
e. Yes - other (specify)	No

**Table 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	Yes
<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 - 1 year of experience in a field related to Child Welfare or Human Services case management
f. Other (specify)	No
<b>6. Degree in social work or related field for foster care case managers</b>	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
<b>1. Tribal involvement in foster care for Tribal cases</b>	Yes, Tribes within state provide foster care - Catawba Indian Nation
<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	Unknown
6. Conditions for youth to reenter extended foster care	Logical Skip

## 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	Yes - Michelle H. vs. Haley

## **Supplemental Notes on State**

### **Definitions**

Although illegal substance and drug or alcohol misuse are addressed in the definition of "drug endangered child" in a supplemental appendix to the child protection policy, they are not defined as maltreatment in the state statutes or code.

The South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS) is in the process of developing a response protocol for near-fatalities.

For the purposes of child protective services, South Carolina law defines a child to include a viable fetus. A fetus is considered to be viable if it can live outside the mother's womb, which medical professionals currently define as 24 weeks of gestation.

### **Reporting**

DSS conducts appropriate training for mandated reporters, but it is not clear whether mandated reporters are required to take such training.

Risk-only reports can be accepted as reports of maltreatment. However, they are only screened in if other criteria meet the threshold for substantial risk.

### **Screening**

South Carolina refers to reporting and screening as "intake." Intake workers gather information from the reporter. The information gathered during the reporting and screening phases is the same. The Intake Unit is a specialized unit composed of caseworkers and supervisors.

## **State Statutes and Policy Documentation Sources**

Child Protection and Permanency, S.C. Code § 63-7 (2023).

Domestic Violence, S.C. Code § 16-25 (2015).

Exec. Order 2018-12 (2018).

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South Carolina Department of Social Services. (2023). Child Welfare Services Case Manager (Human Services Specialist II) Low Country Region Continuous.

South Carolina Department of Social Services. (2023). CWS Case Manager-Investigations [Job description].

South Carolina Department of Social Services. (2023). Intake Hub Case Manager [Job description].

South Carolina Legislature. (n.d.). Chapter 114: Department of Social Services.

University of South Carolina School of Law, & South Carolina Department of Social Services. (2018). Mandated reporter guide.