

# SCAN Policies Database State Profile 2023: Washington

# **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 <a href="https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/data-use-resources">https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/data-use-resources</a>.

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                | l               |
| Child welfare response       | W               |
| Child welfare system context | С               |

#### 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 (<u>https://www.scanpoliciesdatabase.com/data-use-resources</u>) or from the National Data Archive for Child Abuse and Neglect (NDACAN) (<u>https://www.ndacan.acf.hhs.gov/</u>).

#### More information

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

# State identifying information

## Table I. State Identifying information

|   | Response |
|---|----------|
| State abbreviation  | WA       |
| State Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) code | 53       |
| Census region code  | West     |
| 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**

|    |  | Response   |
|----|--|--|
| 1. | Types of maltreatment included in state definition                               |  |
| a. | Physical abuse   | Yes  |
| b. | Excessive corporal punishment  | Yes  |
| c. | Sexual abuse   | Yes  |
| d. | Emotional maltreatment   | Yes  |
| e. | Neglect  | Yes  |
| f. | Inadequate clothing  | Yes  |
| g. | Inadequate shelter   | Yes  |
| h. | Malnourishment, inadequate food  | Yes  |
| i. | Medical neglect, inadequate medical care   | Yes  |
| j. | Failure to thrive  | No   |
| k. | Educational neglect  | No   |
| ١. | 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  |
| ο. | 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  | Yes  |
| u. | Shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma  | Yes  |
| ٧. | Failure to protect. Failure to protect from harm                                 | Yes  |
| w. | Domestic violence. Exposure to domestic violence                                 | No   |
| х. | Factitious disorder by proxy   | No   |
| у. | Institutional abuse/neglect  | No   |
| Z. | Other definition (specify)   | No   |
| 2. | Subtypes of maltreatment included in state definition                            |  |
| a. | Subtypes of maltreatment considered abuse  | Abuse includes physical abuse, punishment, sexual<br>abuse, and sex trafficking; Physical abuse includes<br>shaken baby syndrome   |
| b. | Subtypes of maltreatment considered neglect                                      | Neglect includes abandonment, emotional<br>maltreatment, inadequate clothing, inadequate shelter,<br>malnourishment, medical neglect, parent<br>responsibilities, and failure to protect |
| C. | Subtypes of maltreatment considered other than abuse or neglect                  | Not applicable   |

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

Table D.I (continued)

|    |  | Response   |
|----|--|--|
| 3. | Level of harm included in state's definition of<br>child maltreatment                                      |  |
| a. | Inflicts harm  | Yes  |
| b. | Imminent danger or substantial risk of harm  | Yes  |
| 4. | Differences in level of harm included in state's definition of child maltreatment by type of maltreatment  | Yes - Sexual abuse and sex trafficking definitions include inflicts harm only  |
| 5. | Type of harm or injury specified in state's definition of child maltreatment                               |  |
| a. | Death, bodily injury, impairment of physical condition   | Yes  |
| b. | Impairment of mental or emotional condition  | Yes  |
| c. | Harmful environment, conditions  | Yes  |
| d. | Type of harm or injury not specified   | No   |
| e. | Other (specify)  | No   |
| 6. | Variation in extent of injury or harm by maltreatment type in the state's definition of child maltreatment | No   |
| 7. | Perpetrator identified as part of state's definition of child maltreatment                                 | Yes  |
| 8. | Types of perpetrators specified as part of state's definition of child maltreatment                        |  |
| a. | Any person   | 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   |
| 9. | Types of perpetrators vary by type of<br>maltreatment  | Yes  |
| 10 | . Explanation of variation in types of perpetrator<br>by maltreatment type                                 | For negligent treatment or maltreatment, the perpetrator<br>is a child's parent, legal custodian, guardian, or<br>caregiver; For abandonment, the perpetrator is a parent<br>or guardian |
| 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<br>abandoned in accordance with infant safe haven<br>and safe surrender laws               | Yes                           |
| d. | Infant testing positive for drugs – medical; newborn<br>with positive test for controlled substance due to<br>parent's medical treatment | No                            |
| e. | Religious observance; parent relies on spiritual or religious forms of medical treatment   | No                            |
| f. | Other exemption (specify)  | No                            |
| 2. | Safe haven exemption included in state's definition of child maltreatment  |                               |
| a. | Must leave a child at specific safe haven locations or designated providers  | Yes                           |
| b. | Child must be left by parent or parent's agent   | Yes                           |
| c. | Child must be left by a certain age (specify)  | Yes - 72 hours old or younger |
| d. | No intent to return  | No                            |
| e. | Child must be left unharmed  | No                            |
| f. | Other (specify)  | No                            |

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

|    |   | Response  |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | State's definition of fatalities or deaths caused by child maltreatment   |   |
| a. | Not specified or defined  | No  |
| b. | Injury from abuse or neglect caused death   | Yes   |
| c. | Abuse or neglect was contributing factor in death   | Yes   |
| d. | Death of child who was in child welfare custody or foster care  | Yes   |
| e. | Other (specify)   | No  |
| 2. | State conducts case reviews with a child fatality<br>review team or a similar review process for<br>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-<br>deaths caused by child maltreatment   |   |
| a. | Not specified or defined  | No  |
| b. | General reference to a serious or critical condition<br>or injury that is life threatening with a substantial risk<br>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<br>or similar review process for near-fatalities<br>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  | No  |
| 2. | Decentralized reporting  | During some times of the day, counties/regions have own reporting hotline |
| 3. | Standard for reporting child maltreatment                                    |   |
| a. | Known abuse and neglect  | Yes   |
| 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, all 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<br>perpetrator(s)               | Yes   |
| f. | Identifying and other information of reporter                                | Yes   |
| g. | Identifying information of child's parents, guardian, or caregiver/caretaker | Yes   |
| h. | ldentifying 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   | All reporters can remain anonymous  |  |
| 13. Tribal involvement in state or local public child<br>welfare agency's process to accept reports of<br>Tribal cases                            | Yes, Tribes directly accept reports - Shoalwater Bay<br>Tribe; Tulalip Tribes |  |
| 14. State requires all notifications of substance-<br>exposed newborns (SENs) to be submitted as<br>reports of child maltreatment                 |   |  |
| a. State does not require all cases of SENs to be<br>reported for child maltreatment, but they could be<br>reported if they meet certain criteria | Yes   |  |
| <ul> <li>State requires all SENs to be reported as child<br/>maltreatment</li> </ul>  | 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<br>definition of mandated<br>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  | No                             | Yes   |
| C. | School bus drivers or other transportation staff   | Yes  | No                             | Yes   |
| d. | Before- /after-school<br>program staff   | No   | Logical Skip                   | Logical Skip  |
| e. | Child care staff   | Yes  | No                             | Yes   |
| f. | Camp counselors,<br>directors, or<br>administrators  | No   | Logical Skip                   | Logical Skip  |
| g. | Athletic coaches or staff  | Yes  | No                             | Yes   |
| h. | Medical or dental<br>professionals   | Yes  | No                             | Yes   |
| i. | Substance abuse<br>disorder treatment<br>providers   | Yes  | No                             | Yes   |
| j. | Mental health,<br>counselors, or other<br>social service<br>professionals                  | Yes  | No                             | Yes   |
| k. | Police or other law<br>enforcement   | Yes  | No                             | Yes   |
| I. | Emergency medical<br>technicians,<br>firefighters, or other<br>emergency personnel         | No   | Logical Skip                   | Logical Skip  |
| m. | Judges   | No   | Logical Skip                   | Logical Skip  |
| n. | District attorneys or<br>other attorneys   | No   | Logical Skip                   | Logical Skip  |
| 0. | Guardians ad litem or<br>court-appointed<br>special advocates                              | Yes  | No                             | Yes   |
| p. | Other court personnel  | Yes  | No                             | Yes   |
| q. | Shelter staff  | Yes  | No                             | Yes   |
| r. | Those who work in<br>fields processing or<br>monitoring print, film,<br>or computer images | No   | Logical Skip                   | Logical Skip  |
| s. | Religious clergy   | No   | Logical Skip                   | Logical Skip  |
| t. | Volunteers   | Yes  | No                             | Yes   |

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Table R.II (continued)

|  | Response Response   |    | Response  |  |
|--|---|----|---|--|
| u. Coroners or medical<br>examiners  | Yes   | No | Yes   |  |
| <ul> <li>V. Staff or contractors of<br/>state and county<br/>agencies</li> </ul> | Yes   | No | Yes   |  |
| w. Other type of<br>mandated reporter<br>(specify)                               | Yes - Licensed<br>pathologists; Staff or<br>volunteers in the Family<br>and Children's<br>Ombudsman Office; Any<br>adult who resides with a<br>child suspected to have<br>suffered severe abuse | No | Yes - Licensed<br>pathologists; Staff or<br>volunteers in the Family<br>and Children's<br>Ombudsman Office; Any<br>adult who resides with a<br>child suspected to have<br>suffered severe abuse |  |

<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 |
|-------|------|-----------|----------|
| 10010 | •…   | oorooning | ponoi00  |

|    |  | Response   |
|----|--|--|
| 1. | Statewide centralized screening                                | No   |
| 2. | How screening is decentralized                                 | During certain times of the day, counties/regions have<br>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           | No   |
| c. | Type and severity of suspected maltreatment                    | Yes  |
| d. | Date of suspected maltreatment                                 | No   |
| e. | Identifying and other information of alleged<br>perpetrator(s) | No   |
| f. | Other (specify)  | No   |

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

|    |  | Response                        | Required cases   | Conditions or<br>types of<br>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<br>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 | Yes                             | Required for all | Not applicable                     |
| c. | Other (specify)  | Yes - Response<br>decision tree | Required for all | Not applicable                     |
| 5. | Types of safety or risk assessment used during screening                   |                                 |                  |                                    |
| a. | Structured decision making   | Yes                             | _                | _                                  |
| b. | Other (specify)  | No                              |                  |                                    |
| 6. | Consistency of screening activities/information                            |                                 |                  |                                    |
| a. | Consistent statewide   | Yes                             | _                | _                                  |
| b. | Varies locally (specify)   | No                              | _                | _                                  |

#### Table S.III. Screeners

|  | Response   |
|--|--|
| 1. Screener of abuse and neglect reports   |  |
| a. Caseworkers (frontline staff)   | No   |
| b. Case managers (supervisors)   | No   |
| c. Staff in specialized screening unit   | Yes  |
| d. Other (specify)   | No   |
| 2. Qualifications of screener  |  |
| a. Associate's degree  | No   |
| b. Bachelor's degree   | Yes  |
| c. Master's degree   | Yes  |
| d. Training for screening (specify)  | Yes - Unspecified trainings at start of employment and<br>Next Steps for Staff training between 6-12 months of<br>employment   |
| e. Years of experience (specify)   | Yes - Social Services Specialist 3: 3 years with a<br>bachelor's degree; 2 years of paid social service<br>experience with a master's degree; Social Services<br>Specialist 2: 1 year as a Social Services Specialist 1<br>and completion of Social Service Specialist training<br>program with bachelor's degree; 1 year pf paid social<br>services experience with master's degree; No<br>experience required for Social Services Specialist 1 |
| f. Other (specify)   | No   |
| 3. Degree in social work or related field for screeners  | Yes, required  |
| 4. Tribal involvement in state or local public child welfare agency's process to screen Tribal cases | Yes, Tribes directly conduct screening and collaborate<br>with state/local public child welfare agency - Kalispel<br>Tribe; Makah Tribe; Nisqually Tribe; Port Gamble<br>S'Klallam Tribe; Shoalwater Bay Tribe; Suquamish<br>Tribe; Tulalip Tribes conduct screening. Snoqualmie<br>Tribe collaborates with state agency during screening<br>process   |

# Domain I: Investigations of child abuse and neglect

| Table | LI. | Investigations | policies |
|-------|-----|----------------|----------|
| IUNIC |     | messagaaons    | ponoico  |

|    |  | 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  | No  |
| e. | Other (specify)  | No  |
| 3. | Qualifications of investigator   |   |
| a. | Associate's degree   | No  |
| b. | Bachelor's degree  | Yes   |
| c. | Master's degree  | Yes   |
| d. | Training for conducting investigations (specify)                               | Yes - Child Abuse Interviewing & Assessment training<br>for physical and sexual abuse case investigations;<br>Initial Core training for investigations with a specialized<br>track or FAR   |
| e. | Years of experience (specify)  | Yes - Social Services Specialist 3: 3 years with a<br>bachelor's degree; 2 years of paid social service<br>experience with a master's degree; Social Services<br>Specialist 2: 1 year as a Social Services Specialist 1<br>and completion of Social Service Specialist training<br>program with bachelor's degree; 1 year of paid social<br>service experience with master's degree; No<br>experience required for Social Services Specialist 1 |
| f. | Other (specify)  | No  |
| 4. | Degree in social work or related field for<br>investigators                    | Yes, required   |
| 5. | Level of evidence required for substantiation (founded/indicated/confirmed)    | Preponderance of evidence   |
| 6. | Investigation determination can result in an<br>"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<br>involvement with child protective<br>services                                 | Yes      | Required for all  | Not applicable   |
| b. | Visit to child's home  | No       | Logical Skip      | 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  | No       | Logical Skip      | Not applicable   |
| e. | Risk or safety assessment  | Yes      | Required for all  | Not applicable   |
| f. | Evaluation of home environment or<br>home study  | Yes      | Required for some | Issues that may pose<br>a child safety threat or<br>risk of imminent harm,<br>e.g., housing<br>inspector, health<br>department or other<br>local authority |
| g. | Interviews with child's parents,<br>caregivers, or other adults residing<br>in child's home                      | Yes      | Required for all  | Not applicable   |
| h. | Check of criminal records for<br>adults in home  | No       | Logical Skip      | Not applicable   |
| i. | Check of child welfare or central<br>registry for prior child maltreatment<br>allegations against adults in home | Yes      | Required for some | lf applicable  |

#### SCAN Policies Database State profile: Washington

### Table I.II (continued)

|   |          |                   | Conditions or  |
|---|----------|-------------------|--|
|   | Response | Required cases    | types of cases   |
| j. Medical evaluation                         | Yes      | Required for some | If indicators of serious<br>child abuse or neglect<br>exist; If a child is 3 or<br>younger with a<br>physical abuse<br>allegation; If the<br>alleged child abuse<br>and neglect cannot be<br>reasonably attributed<br>to the explanation and<br>a diagnostic finding<br>would clarify the<br>assessment of risk or<br>determine the need<br>for medical treatment;<br>If the alleged neglect<br>includes concerns that<br>children are deprived<br>of food, underweight,<br>or are starved;<br>Consultation with the<br>Child Protection<br>Medical Consultation<br>Network (CP Med-<br>Con) or with a Child<br>Advocacy Center<br>(CAC) physician is<br>required to (1)<br>determine if a child<br>alleged to be sexually<br>abused needs a<br>medical examination,<br>(2) when there is an<br>allegation of sexual<br>abuse that includes<br>physical injury to the<br>child or the potential<br>for the child to have a<br>sexually transmitted<br>disease, (3) when the<br>child is seriously<br>injured, and (4) when<br>there is a pattern of<br>injury to a young child<br>because of alleged<br>child abuse or neglect |
| k. Mental health evaluation                   | No       | Logical Skip      | Not applicable   |
| I. Interview alleged perpetrator              | Yes      | Required for all  | Not applicable   |
| m. Interview reporter or collateral<br>source | Yes      | Required for all  | Not applicable   |

#### SCAN Policies Database State profile: Washington

### Table I.II (continued)

|                    | Response  | Required cases    | Conditions or<br>types of cases   |
|--------------------|---|-------------------|---|
| n. Other (specify) | Yes - If a child is<br>believed to be unsafe<br>and the child's<br>whereabouts out-of-<br>state are known,<br>make a Child<br>Protective Services<br>(CPS) report in that<br>state; If the<br>investigation involves<br>a military parent or<br>guardian, notify the<br>Department of<br>Defense Family<br>Advocacy Program,<br>per the military<br>Memorandum of<br>Understanding;<br>Provide infant safety<br>education and<br>intervention for all<br>children in the<br>household age birth to<br>one year; Conduct a<br>universal domestic<br>violence (DV)<br>screening; Complete<br>the Investigative<br>Assessment (IA);<br>Refer a child or youth<br>with complex<br>behavioral health<br>needs for a<br>Wraparound Intensive<br>Services (WISe)<br>screen; Make a<br>referral to Early<br>Support for Infants<br>and Toddlers (ESIT)<br>services if a child<br>younger than three<br>years old is identified<br>with a possible<br>developmental delay;<br>Conduct monthly<br>health and safety<br>visits with children<br>and youth and<br>monthly visits with<br>parents or guardians<br>when cases are open<br>longer than 60<br>calendar days | Required for some | These activities are<br>generally case-<br>specific as noted in<br>the descriptions;<br>however, conducting<br>a universal domestic<br>violence (DV)<br>screening and<br>completing the<br>Investigative<br>Assessment (IA) are<br>required for all reports |

# Domain W: Child welfare response

### Table W.I. Differential or alternative response

|                 |   | Response  |
|-----------------|---|---|
| 1.              | Differential/alternative response   | Yesimplemented statewide  |
| 2.              | Types of maltreatment eligible for<br>differential/alternative response   | Only certain types of maltreatment are eligible   |
| 3.              | Types of maltreatment <u>not</u> eligible for differential/alternative response   |   |
| a.              | Cases involving child fatalities and near-fatalities  | Yes   |
| b.              | Substance-exposed infants   | No  |
| c.              | Physical abuse  | No  |
| d.              | Sexual abuse  | Yes   |
| e.              | Neglect   | No  |
| f.              | Abandoned infants   | Yes   |
| g.              | Other (specify)   | Yes - Severe maltreatment or abuse by a parent or<br>caregiver; Injury to non-mobile infant; Allegation of<br>commercial sexual exploitation; Child-on-child<br>sexualized contact; Medical abuse reported on behalf of<br>medical professional |
| 4.              | Eligibility for differential/alternative response determined by a risk determination                                      | Yes   |
| 5.              | Tools used to determine risk for<br>differential/alternative response   | Yes - Structured Decision Making (SDM) Screening<br>Tool  |
| 6.              | Risk level eligible for differential/alternative response   |   |
| a.              | No risk   | No  |
| b.              | Low risk  | Yes   |
| с.              | Moderate risk   | Yes   |
| d.              | Other (specify)   | No  |
|                 | Unknown   | No  |
| 7.              | Other types of cases or conditions eligible for differential/alternative response   |   |
| a.              | No other cases or conditions  | No  |
| b.              | No immediate safety concerns  | Yes   |
| c.              | No or few prior reports of child abuse or neglect   | Yes   |
| 2               | Oth an $(an a a if i)$  | Veg Dage not have provided chalter agrees   |
| u.              | Other (specify)   | Yes - Does not have previous shelter care or<br>dependency in the home closed in the last 12 months;<br>Is not alleged victim already in out-of-home care   |
|                 | When is determination made for<br>differential/alternative response   | dependency in the home closed in the last 12 months;  |
| 8.              | When is determination made for  | dependency in the home closed in the last 12 months;  |
| <b>8.</b><br>a. | When is determination made for<br>differential/alternative response<br>At the time of screening to assign to differential | dependency in the home closed in the last 12 months;<br>Is not alleged victim already in out-of-home care   |

#### SCAN Policies Database State profile: Washington

Table W.I (continued)

|    |  | Response |
|----|--|----------|
| 9. | Referrals to community services for cases engaged in differential response |          |
| a. | No   | No       |
| b. | Yes - for all cases  | No       |
| c. | Yes - when families express interest                                       | Yes      |
| d. | Yes - when there is a determination of risk                                | Yes      |
| e. | Yes - other (specify)  | No       |

|  | Response  |
|--|---|
| 1. In-home services provided for unsubstantiated cases to maintain intact families | Yesimplemented statewide  |
| 2. In-home services provided post reunification                                    | Yesimplemented statewide  |
| 3. Permanency  |   |
| a. Kinship guardianship as a permanency option                                     | Yes   |
| b. Subsidized guardianship   | Yes   |
| c. Subsidized kinship guardianship   | Yes   |
| d. Subsidized adoption   | Yes   |
| 4. Foster care case management staff   |   |
| a. State/county public agency staff  | Yes   |
| b. Contracted provider staff   | No  |
| c. Tribal agency staff   | Yes   |
| 5. Qualifications of foster care case managers                                     |   |
| a. Associate degree  | No  |
| b. Bachelor's degree   | Yes   |
| c. Master's degree   | Yes   |
| d. Training for case management (specify)  | No  |
| e. Years of experience (specify)   | Yes - Social Services Specialist 3: 3 years with a<br>bachelor's degree; 2 years of paid social service<br>experience with a master's degree; Social Services<br>Specialist 2: 1 year as a Social Services Specialist 1<br>and completion of Social Service Specialist training<br>program with bachelor's degree; 1 year of paid social<br>service experience with master's degree; No<br>experience required for Social Services Specialist 1 |
| f. Other (specify)   | No  |
| 6. Degree in social work or related field for foster care case managers            | Yes, required   |

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

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

|  | Response   |
|--|--|
| 1. Tribal involvement in foster care for Tribal cases  | Yes, Tribes within state provide foster care - Chehalis<br>Confederated Tribes; Colville Confederated Tribes;<br>Lummi Nation; Muckleshoot Tribe; Port Gamble<br>S'Klallam Tribe; Puyallup Tribe; Quinault Nation;<br>Shoalwater Bay Tribe; Snoqualmie Tribe; Spokane<br>Tribe; Tulalip Tribes; Yakama Nation Confederated<br>Tribes |
| 2. Tribes directly operate a Title IV-E program through an agreement with US HHS                                   | Yes  |
| 3. Number of Tribes that directly operate a Title IV-<br>E program through an agreement with US HHS                | 1  |
| <ol> <li>Specify Tribes that directly operate a Title IV-E<br/>program through an agreement with US HHS</li> </ol> | Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe  |

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

|    |  | Response |
|----|--|----------|
| 1. | Federal ICWA requirements codified in state law  | Yes      |
| 2. | Federal ICWA requirements that are codified in state law                               |          |
| a. | ldentifying a child's Tribal status  | Yes      |
| b. | Use of active efforts to prevent removal/reunite families                              | Yes      |
| c. | Notification of child's parents and Tribe for child custody proceedings                | Yes      |
| d. | Actively working to involve a child's parents and Tribe during the custody proceedings | No       |
| e. | Identifying a foster care or pre-adoptive placement using ICWA preferences provisions  | Yes      |
| f. | Use of qualified expert witnesses  | Yes      |
| 3. | State law codifying ICWA includes state-<br>recognized Tribes                          | No       |

#### 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<br>consent, or<br>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<br>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   | No   |
| c. | It is in the best interest of the youth  | No   |
| d. | Other (specify)  | Yes - Meet extended foster care eligibility criteria |

# 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<br>other court-ordered monitoring | No                 |

# **Supplemental Notes on State**

#### Definitions

Prenatal exposure to drugs or alcohol is not considered maltreatment if there is no child abuse or neglect allegation or imminent risk of serious harm regarding children in the mother's care.

Reports involving factitious disorder by proxy may be accepted under the statutory definition of neglect.

According to state law, the department investigates all child fatalities or near fatalities when there is or was an open case in the past 12 months.

#### Reporting

There is a single centralized statewide reporting hotline on all state holidays and at all hours other than Monday through Friday, 8 am–4:30 pm.

Although all reporters can remain anonymous, mandated reporters will not satisfy their mandatory reporting requirement if they do remain anonymous.

Training is required only for the foster parent who is the primary caregiver.

Homeless shelter staff are mandated reporters if the shelter is licensed as an overnight youth shelter.

Instances of substance-exposed newborns that do not meet the criterion for a CPS intervention are referred for a plan of safe care.

#### Screening

Central Intake is the centralized statewide screening unit on all state holidays and at all hours other than Monday through Friday, 8 am–4:30 pm.

#### Investigations

Beginning October 1, 2008, the department no longer makes inconclusive findings but retains such findings made before that date.

#### Child welfare response

Cases not eligible for differential response include the following:

- 1. Severe maltreatment or abuse by a parent or caregiver,
- 2. Previous shelter care or dependency in the home closed in the past 12 months,
- 3. Alleged victim is already in out-of-home care,
- 4. Alleged victim or subject was involved in three or more previous intakes screened in for CPS in past 12 months,
- 5. Physical abuse to a child age 3 or younger,
- 6. Physical abuse to children younger than age 5 reported on behalf of a medical professional,

- 7. Injury to non-mobile infant,
- 8. Allegation of commercial sexual exploitation,
- 9. Child-on-child sexualized contact,
- 10. Medical abuse reported on behalf of a medical professional,
- 11. Law enforcement report of parent arrested for criminal mistreatment of a child,
- 12. Child victim of a criminal offense,
- 13. Serious physical abuse or serious neglect,
- 14. The parent or caregiver declines to participate in Family Assessment Response (FAR),
- 15. The parent or caregiver refuses to allow the FAR caseworker to complete an initial faceto-face encounter or interview the identified children.

Effective June 6, 2024, extended foster care is an opt-out-only program with no requirements.

In-home services aren't provided based on being unsubstantiated, but rather determined by family needs and requests.

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

Criminal Mistreatment, Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A-9A.42 (2005).

- Kidnapping, Unlawful Imprisonment, Custodial Interference, Luring, Trafficking, and Coercion of Involuntary Servitude, Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A-9A.40 (2017).
- Revised Code of Washington 26.44.030.
- Sentencing Reform Act of 1981, Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9A-94A (2009).
- The Alliance for Professional Development, Training, and Caregiver Excellence (n.d.). Next Steps for Intake Staff in Their First Year.
- Washington Administrative Code 110-30 Child Protective Services. (2020).
- Washington Administrative Code 110-148-1375. (2018).
- Washington Children's Administration, & National Council on Crime and Delinquency. (2023). Structured decision making for intake.
- Washington Office of Financial Management. (2024). State of Washington Classified Job Specification: Social Services Specialist 1.
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- Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families. (n.d.). Child welfare case services policy manual.
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- Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families. (2019). Protecting the Abuse & Neglected Child A Guide for Recognizing & Reporting Child Abuse & Neglect.
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- Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (2024). Child welfare case services policy manual.
- Washington State Department of Social and Health Services. (n.d.). Washington General Service Position Description.