

## SCAN Policies Database State Profile 2023: West Virginia

### 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	WV
State Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) code	54
Census region code	South
State verified coding of information	Yes
State confirmed documents reviewed	Yes
State definitions and policies for calendar year	2023
Data version	2023v1

## Domain D: Definitions of child maltreatment

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

	Response
<b>1. Types of maltreatment included in state definition</b>	
a. Physical abuse	Yes
b. Excessive corporal punishment	Yes
c. Sexual abuse	Yes
d. Emotional maltreatment	Yes
e. Neglect	Yes
f. Inadequate clothing	Yes
g. Inadequate shelter	Yes
h. Malnourishment, inadequate food	Yes
i. Medical neglect, inadequate medical care	Yes
j. Failure to thrive	No
k. Educational neglect	Yes
l. Abandonment	Yes
m. Injurious environment. Likelihood of harm to child's health, physical well-being	Yes
n. Drug lab. Child present within structure where methamphetamine is being created	Yes
o. Inadequate supervision. Failure to meet parent or caretaker responsibilities	Yes
p. Drug or alcohol misuse. Parental drug or alcohol misuse causing harm to child	Yes
q. Prenatal exposure to drugs or alcohol	Yes
r. Illicit substance. Illegally providing a controlled substance to a child	No
s. Human trafficking, involuntary servitude, sexual servitude	Yes
t. Female genital mutilation	No
u. Shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma	No
v. Failure to protect. Failure to protect from harm	Yes
w. Domestic violence. Exposure to domestic violence	Yes
x. Factitious disorder by proxy	No
y. Institutional abuse/neglect	Yes
z. Other definition (specify)	Yes - Child conceived as a result of sexual assault
<b>2. Subtypes of maltreatment included in state definition</b>	
a. Subtypes of maltreatment considered abuse	Abuse includes excessive corporal punishment, mental or emotional maltreatment, physical abuse, near fatality, sexual exploitation, sexual abuse, sale or attempted sale of a child, child exposed to domestic violence, child conceived as a result of sexual assault, human trafficking and attempted human trafficking
b. Subtypes of maltreatment considered neglect	Neglect includes abandonment and failure/inability to supply necessary food, clothing, supervision, medical care (including hygiene), education, or necessary shelter

Table D.1 (*continued*)

	Response
c. Subtypes of maltreatment considered other than abuse or neglect	Not applicable
<b>3. Level of harm included in state's definition of child maltreatment</b>	
a. Inflicts harm	Yes
b. Imminent danger or substantial risk of harm	Yes
<b>4. Differences in level of harm included in state's definition of child maltreatment by type of maltreatment</b>	No
<b>5. Type of harm or injury specified in state's definition of child maltreatment</b>	
a. Death, bodily injury, impairment of physical condition	Yes
b. Impairment of mental or emotional condition	Yes
c. Harmful environment, conditions	Yes
d. Type of harm or injury not specified	No
e. Other (specify)	No
<b>6. Variation in extent of injury or harm by maltreatment type in the state's definition of child maltreatment</b>	No
<b>7. Perpetrator identified as part of state's definition of child maltreatment</b>	Yes
<b>8. Types of perpetrators specified as part of state's definition of child maltreatment</b>	
a. Any person	No
b. Parent	Yes
c. Guardian	Yes
d. Caregiver/caretaker	Yes
e. Family member or parent's paramour	Yes
f. Household member	Yes
g. Person responsible for child	Yes
h. Other (specify)	Yes - Third party perpetrator
<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>	For human trafficking, the perpetrator is a third party perpetrator
<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 with variability under 18
<b>13. Variability of child age by type of maltreatment</b>	Yes - Drug affected infant applies to children under 1

**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	No
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	No
f. Other exemption (specify)	No
<b>2. Safe haven exemption included in state's definition of child maltreatment</b>	
a. Must leave a child at specific safe haven locations or designated providers	Yes
b. Child must be left by parent or parent's agent	Yes
c. Child must be left by a certain age (specify)	Yes - 30 days old or younger
d. No intent to return	Yes
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
<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	No
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	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
<b>4. State conducts case reviews with a review team or similar review process for near-fatalities caused by child abuse or neglect</b>	Yes, reviews are required for all or some cases

## Domain R: Reporting child abuse and neglect

Table R.I. Reporting policies

	Response
<b>1. Statewide centralized reporting</b>	Yes
<b>2. Decentralized reporting</b>	Logical Skip
<b>3. Standard for reporting child maltreatment</b>	
a. Known abuse and neglect	Yes
b. Reasonable cause to believe a child was abused or neglected	Yes
<b>4. Universal mandated reporting</b>	No
<b>5. Required training for mandated reporters</b>	No
<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	No
b. Civil charges	No
c. Professional license suspended or revoked	No
d. Other (specify)	Yes - Regarding reports of child maltreatment against those with open or upcoming family court cases, if the Court determines, based on investigation or other evidence, that an accusation of child abuse or neglect, or domestic violence made during a child custody proceeding is false and the parent making the accusation knew it to be false at the time the accusation was made, the Court may order reimbursement to be paid by the person making the accusations of costs resulting from defending against the accusations
<b>10. Immunity for reporters of child abuse and neglect</b>	Yes
<b>11. Information requested at the time of report</b>	
a. Identifying information of child	Yes
b. Location and contact information of child and family	Yes
c. Type and severity of suspected maltreatment	Yes
d. Date of suspected maltreatment	Yes
e. Identifying and other information of alleged perpetrator(s)	Yes
f. Identifying and other information of reporter	Yes
g. Identifying information of child's parents, guardian, or caregiver/caretaker	Yes
h. Identifying and other information of family or household members	Yes
i. Information on prior maltreatment	Yes



Table R.I (continued)

	Response
j. Other (specify)	Yes - Child's and caregiver's general condition; Account of present/impending dangers; Reporter's opinions about needed actions and child's safety; Identification of protective adults who are or may be available
<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, there are no Tribes within the state
<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>	No

**Table R.II. Types of mandated reporters**

	Response	Response	Response
1. Types of mandated reporters	Included in state's definition of mandated reporters	Training required <sup>1</sup>	Subject to penalties for failure to report <sup>2</sup>
a. Foster parents	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
b. School staff - teachers	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
c. School bus drivers or other transportation staff	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
d. Before- /after-school program staff	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
e. Child care staff	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
f. Camp counselors, directors, or administrators	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
g. Athletic coaches or staff	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
h. Medical or dental professionals	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
i. Substance abuse disorder treatment providers	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
j. Mental health, counselors, or other social service professionals	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
k. Police or other law enforcement	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
l. Emergency medical technicians, firefighters, or other emergency personnel	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
m. Judges	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
n. District attorneys or other attorneys	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
o. Guardians ad litem or court-appointed special advocates	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
p. Other court personnel	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
q. Shelter staff	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
r. Those who work in fields processing or monitoring print, film, or computer images	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
s. Religious clergy	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
t. Volunteers	Yes	Logical Skip	Yes
u. Coroners or medical examiners	No	Logical Skip	Logical Skip
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 - Humane officer; Religious healer	Logical Skip	Yes - Humane officer; Religious healer

<sup>1</sup> Responses in this column can equal logical skip when the given type of mandated reporter is not included in the state's definition of mandated reporters or when no training is required for mandated reporters (Table R.II). Responses in this column can be yes when a state has universal mandated reporting (Table R.I) and all mandated reporters require training (Table R.II).

<sup>2</sup> Responses in this column can equal logical skip when the given type of mandated reporter is not included in the state's definition of mandated reporters or when no mandated reporters are subject to penalties (Table R.I). Responses in this column can be yes when a state has universal mandated reporting (Table R.I) and when all adults or all mandated reporters are subject to penalties (Table R.I).

## Domain S: Screening reports of child abuse and neglect

Table S.I. Screening policies

	Response
1. Statewide centralized screening	Yes
2. How screening is decentralized	Logical Skip
3. Information required to screen in report	
a. Identifying information of child	Yes
b. Location and contact information of child and family	Yes
c. Type and severity of suspected maltreatment	Yes
d. Date of suspected maltreatment	Yes
e. Identifying and other information of alleged perpetrator(s)	Yes
f. Other (specify)	Yes - Identifying and other information of reporter; Identifying information of child's parents, guardian, or caregiver/caretaker; Identifying and other information of family/household members; Child's and caregiver's general condition; Account of present/impending dangers; How the child functions/behaves; Reporter's opinions about needed actions and child's safety; Information on prior maltreatment; Identification of protective adults who are or may be available

**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)	No	Logical Skip	Not applicable
<b>5. Types of safety or risk assessment used during screening</b>			
a. Structured decision making	No	—	—
b. Other (specify)	Yes - Intake Assessment Protocol	—	—
<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)	Yes
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 - 3 years of full-time or equivalent part-time social work experience in a public or private human services agency
f. Other (specify)	Yes - Valid driver's license
<b>3. Degree in social work or related field for screeners</b>	No
<b>4. Tribal involvement in state or local public child welfare agency's process to screen Tribal cases</b>	No, there are no Tribes within the state

## Domain I: Investigations of child abuse and neglect

Table I.I. Investigations policies

	Response
<b>1. Findings from child maltreatment investigations can lead to criminal penalties</b>	Yes
<b>2. Investigator for reports</b>	
a. Caseworkers (frontline staff)	Yes
b. Case managers (supervisors)	No
c. Staff in specialized investigations unit	Yes
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)	No
f. Other (specify)	No
<b>4. Degree in social work or related field for investigators</b>	No
<b>5. Level of evidence required for substantiation (founded/indicated/confirmed)</b>	Preponderance of evidence
<b>6. Investigation determination can result in an "inconclusive" finding</b>	No

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

	Response	Required cases	Conditions or types of cases
<b>1. Certain activities or information required for the investigation process</b>	Yes		
<b>2. Specific activities or information required for investigation</b>			
a. Review agency records for prior involvement with child protective services	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
b. Visit to child's home	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
c. Interview or observation of child victim	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
d. Interview or observation of other children living in child's home	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
e. Risk or safety assessment	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
f. Evaluation of home environment or home study	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
g. Interviews with child's parents, caregivers, or other adults residing in child's home	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
h. Check of criminal records for adults in home	Yes	Required for some	Cases involving allegations of child sex offender in the home; Prior domestic violence allegations
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; Cases involving serious physical injury
k. Mental health evaluation	No	Logical Skip	Not applicable
l. Interview alleged perpetrator	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable
m. Interview reporter or collateral source	Yes	Required for all	Not applicable



Table I.II (*continued*)

	Response	Required cases	Conditions or types of cases
n. Other (specify)	Yes - The Child Protective Services (CPS) worker must: Collect information on child functioning, general parenting, parenting discipline, and adult functioning; Contact law enforcement, the prosecuting attorney or the medical examiner if the report involves serious physical injury, sexual abuse, sexual assault, death of a child, and cases of human trafficking to coordinate any arrangements for a joint investigation/family assessment.	Required for all	Not applicable

## 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)	No
e. Years of experience (specify)	No
f. Other (specify)	No
6. Degree in social work or related field for foster care case managers	No

**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	Yes
b. Youth develop an independent living plan	No
c. It is in the best interest of the youth	Yes
d. Other (specify)	No

## Domain C: Child welfare system context

Table C.I. Child welfare system context

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

## **Supplemental Notes on State**

### **Definitions**

West Virginia Code 49-1-201 includes a child conceived as a result of sexual assault in the definition of an abused child. According to the Child Protective Services (CPS) manual, this addition to West Virginia Code was added to allow victims of a sexual assault resulting in pregnancy to petition the court to terminate the parental rights of their abuser without the involvement of the Department of Human Services and they may contact the prosecuting attorney to initiate a petition for Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) on their own.

Fatalities and near-fatalities are treated the same way and are known as "critical incidents." Critical incidents occur when there is reasonable suspicion that a fatality or near fatality was caused by abuse or neglect or when abuse or neglect has been determined to have led to a child's death or near death. These cases are reviewed if they are known to the agency. A case known to the agency is defined as a family with an open CPS case or a Youth Services (YS) case in the past 12 months or whom CPS or YS assessed within the past 12 months.

A third-party perpetrator is defined as a person who abuses or neglects a child whose care and supervision are not their responsibility.

### **Reporting**

Shelter staff and substance use treatment providers are mandated to report only if they are licensed mental health providers, social service workers, or medical professionals.

While not all contractors of the state agency are mandated reporters, some contracted youth service workers are considered mandated reporters under the mandate for "social service workers."

### **Screening**

The reporting and intake/screening processes are combined, and they are distinguished in state policy. The requirements to screen in a report are the same as the required information collected during the report.

In cases where there is disagreement about a screening decision, the child welfare supervisor can send the report to staff in the Office of Policy and Programs for reconsideration.

A current West Virginia Social Work License can serve as a substitution for a master's degree in social work.

### **Investigations**

A current West Virginia Social Worker License can serve as a substitution for a bachelor's degree.

### **Child welfare response**

A current West Virginia Social Worker License can serve as a substitution for a bachelor's degree.

## State Statutes and Policy Documentation Sources

Child Welfare, W. Va. Code § 49 (2023).

Definitions Related, But Not Limited, to Adult, Child, Developmental Disability, and Transitioning Adult Status, W. Va. Code, § 49-1-202 (2017).

O'Connell, T., & Carson, R. (2016, September). Mandated reporting: Child abuse and neglect [PowerPoint slides]. West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Children and Families.

Public Safety, W. Va. Code § 15 (2006).

Uniform Controlled Substances Act, W. Va. Code § 60A (2017).

West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources Bureau for Children and Families, Office of Children and Adult Services. (n.d.). Child Protective Service Worker Job Descriptions.

West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources Bureau for Children and Families, Office of Children and Adult Services. (2021). Standard Operating Procedures: Critical Incident Review.

West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources Bureau for Social Services. (2023). Indian Child Welfare Act Policy.

West Virginia Department of Human Services, Bureau for Social Services. (2023). Intake screening reconsiderations.

West Virginia Department of Human Services, Bureau for Social Services. (2024). Centralized intake supervisor.

West Virginia Department of Human Services, Bureau for Social Services. (2024). Continued foster care services agreement for youth over 18.