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Children's Justice & Advocacy Report

To promote community responsibility so every Pennsylvania child is protected from child abuse, including sexual abuse.

Child Protection Background: Child Protective Services and General Protective Services



Key Definitions

"Child protective services." Those services and activities provided by the department and each county agency for child abuse cases

"General protective services." Those services and activities provided by each county agency for cases requiring protective services, as defined by the department in regulations. (CPSL, Section 6303 definitions)

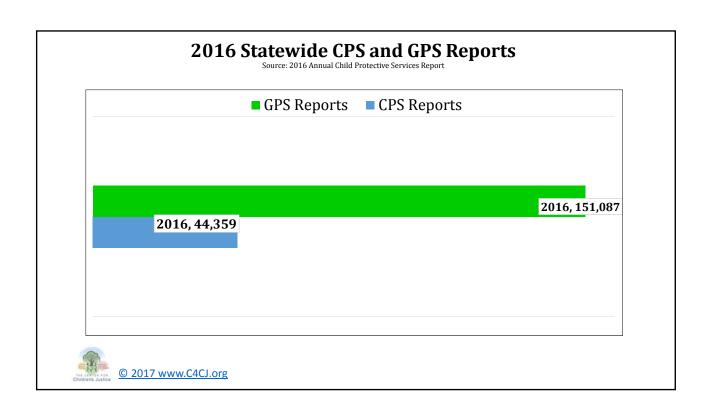
General protective services (3490 regulations): Services to prevent the potential for harm to a child who meets one of the following conditions:

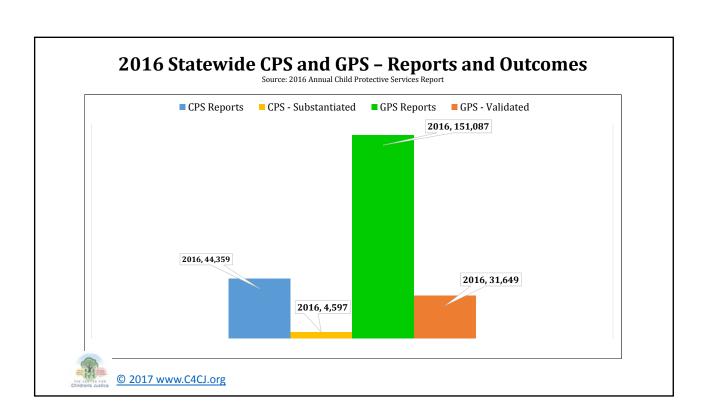
- (i) Is without proper parental care or control, subsistence, education as required by law, or other care or control necessary for his physical, mental, or emotional health, or morals.
 - (ii) Has been placed for care or adoption in violation of law.
 - (iii) Has been abandoned by his parents, guardian or other custodian.
 - (iv) Is without a parent, guardian or legal custodian.
 - (v) Is habitually and without justification truant from school while subject to compulsory school attendance.
- (vi) Has committed a specific act of habitual disobedience of the reasonable and lawful commands of his parent, guardian or other custodian and who is ungovernable and found to be in need of care, treatment or supervision.
 - (vii) Is under 10 years of age and has committed a delinquent act.
- (viii) Has been formerly adjudicated dependent under section 6341 of the Juvenile Act (relating to adjudication), and is under the jurisdiction of the court, subject to its conditions or placements and who commits an act which is defined as ungovernable in subparagraph (vi).
- (ix) Has been referred under section 6323 of the Juvenile Act (relating to informal adjustment), and who commits an act which is defined as ungovernable in subparagraph (vi).

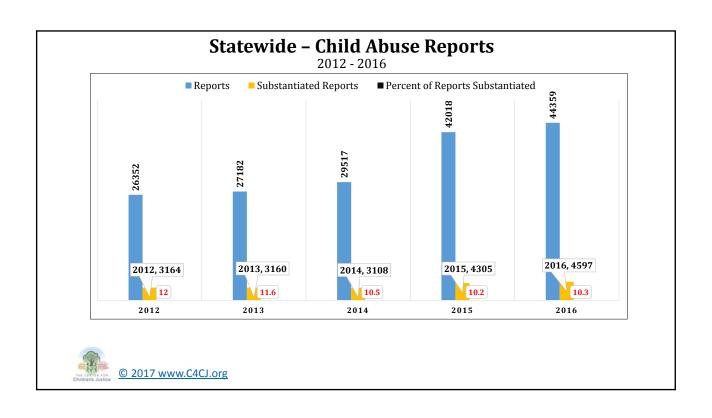


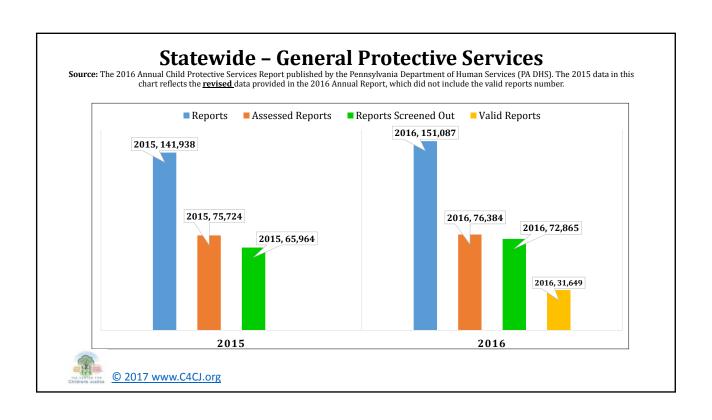
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Source: Child Protective Services Law, 6303. Definitions and 3490 regulations http://www.pacode.com/secure/data/055/chapter3490/subchapCtoc.html









Examples of GPS Reports

Northumberland County Children and Youth received their third referral for this family on 02/18/2016 alleging that the child (victim child's full sibling) had come downstairs from the apartment above and mother did not come down to get her for 10 minutes. It was alleged that mother appeared disoriented and started nodding with her head down and eyes closed. The referral stated that mother is on
but it was alleged that she was taking too much
Caller was concerned about the lack of supervision of the child. On 04/12/2016,
during the course of assessing this referral, the youngest child (victim child's full sibling) was born. however, the case was closed on 04/28/2016 after what is documented as brief intervention that lowered the risk/safety. The case determination exceeded 60 days due to the county agency waiting to complete a home visit upon the baby's hospital which occurred on 04/28/2016.

On 05/16/2016, Northumberland County Children and Youth received their fourth referral regarding this family alleging that the mother ran off with her 1-month-old baby (victim child's full sibling) and took the mother was allegedly sleeping and laying on the baby and father woke up to see this. The mother left Northumberland County with her two children and went to reside with the maternal aunt in Luzerne County. Northumberland County Children and Youth made a referral to Luzerne County Children and Youth

On 06/13/2016, Northumberland County Children and Youth received their fifth referral regarding this family alleging the following: suspicion surrounding the death of the parent's child (March 2015), unstable housing, drug use by both parents, the father is mean to the oldest child and hits her and mother is selling for drugs. Northumberland County Children and Youth contacted Luzerne County Children and Youth who reported with the family; therefore, Northumberland County Children and Youth



http://www.dhs.pa.gov/cs/groups/webcontent/documents/document/c 264264.pdf

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Examples of GPS Reports

Luzerne County Children and Youth received two prior referrals regarding this family. It should be noted that only one referral was received prior to the victim child's death; the other referral was received on 05/16/2016 which was after the fatal incident but prior to the incident being reported as alleged child abuse. For the purpose of this report, the details of both reports will be included.

The first referral was received by Luzerne County Children and Youth on 12/25/2014

The referral source reported that the mother has two children and one on the way; due in March 2015. The mother was alleged to be using several different kinds of drugs including marijuana, and pain medications that have caused mother to get into car accidents over the past several months. The caller reported that the mother will nod off when driving and by the looks of the car, the referral source can see where mother has hit guardrai. The referral source also stated that

The referral source also stated that the mother and father sell the mother and father sell for drug money and the father uses Heroin. The referral source further reported that there is a 5 year old in the home; his father pays child support but caller alleged that mother spends the money on drugs. The family reportedly was going to be evicted on 01/10/2014. Also reported on 12/25/2014 was that the mother robbed her grandparent's home the day before and the police came out. The referral source further stated that the mother is using and marijuana. The referral source reported that there were two children in the home; ages 8 months and 4 years. The referral source stated that the mother's paramour (father of victim child) was also in the home and that he was caught jumping the border from Mexico with drugs on him and that he was an indicated perpetrator. The on-call caseworker searched the Megan's Law registry, the inmate look-up and reviewed the agency case information system (CAPS). There was no record for either the mother or father. During the course of assessing this referral, the victim child of this report was born and the maternal half-sibling went to reside with his father. The victim child was born premature at 29 weeks gestation and stayed in the hospital until 02/26/2015 to her parents' care. During the assessment period, the mother and father cooperated with urine screens. Luzeme County Children and Youth closed the case on 02/23/2015, 3 days prior to the child's the hospital, citing no evidence of child abuse or neglect. Unfortunately, the child died on 03/08/2015.



http://www.dhs.pa.gov/cs/groups/webcontent/documents/document/c_264264.pdf

Examples of GPS Reports

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES ACT 33 TEAM FATALITY REVIEW REPORT TAHIRAH PHILLIPS

TAHIRAH PHILLIPS

Date of review meetings 50550016

Date of reports 54170016

Child's name Talloah Phillips

On January 6, 2010, DHS received a GPS report alleging that, on a regular basis, urinated and defecated on herself at her afterschool program. Her clothing had been observed as dirty and she was malodorous.

The program requested that the mother take ... or a health assessment, but the mother had not compiled.

Was described as withdrawn and she did not interact with the other children. She was beginning to display anger. The mother was unemployed and described as disheveled, dirty, and nasty. The report was investigated and determined as valid.

On March 1, 2013, DHS received a GPS report alleging that had been wetting the bed and writing sexually explicit comments on her papers and folders. The reporter stated that this behavior had been ongoing. No organic cause was known for the bed wetting. Had been made to the Joseph J. Peters institute (JJPI) and also started stealing at school. The report was investigated and determined as valid.

The family's case was accepted for services and transferred to APM CUA on May 28, 2013. APM began providing in-home safety services.

On November 4, 2015, DHS received a GPS report alleging that there was no food in the refrigerator and that the mother was "stashing" food from the children. The reporter stated that, when the children die act, they were sharing only two cans of soup or two tablespoons of oatmeal each. The family was reported to be receiving electricity illegally. Hair dryers and a space heater were being used to heat the home. There was no running water. There were no beds in the home and the children were reported to be sleeping on piles of trash. The newborn was the only child with bedding. There was a strong odor in the home and the bedrooms smelled of urine. The father of the younger children reportedly hit the other children with a board from a broken bunk bed. It was reported that, approximately one month prior, he hit with a board for 25 minutes because the child took peanut butter without asking for permission. The children were not permitted to go outside. The reporter also stated that he witnessed the father allowing his son to hold a gun. It was reported that the father did have a permit for the gun. The reporter stated that the mother gave the father all of the money which he spent on marijuana. The mother was reported to be more concerned about her relationship with the father than with the care of her children. The case was active with APM CUA. The reporter alleged that, one month prior, a black female DHS worker was in the home. She met briefly with the mother but did not speak with the children nor did she assess the home. The reporter also noted that the mother had eight children, but the oldest did not live in the home. The reporter was investigated and determined as valid.



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Examples of GPS Reports

 $http://www.dhs.pa.gov/cs/groups/webcontent/documents/document/c_265053.pdf$

Summary of circumstances prior to Incident:

CCCYS had previously received one general protective services report on the family on 05/08/2014. This report alleged that the children were not being properly supervised and that there was not adequate food in the home. The agency was not able to validate these concerns and closed the family's case at the intake level with no further services being provided.



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http://www.legis.state.pa.us/WU01/LI/HJ/1993/0/19931005.pdf#page=6

Examples of GPS Reports

her and the father and his mother (paternal grandmother) selling as well as smoking methamphetamines in the home. During this assessment, the victim child's mother, father and paternal grandmother were all drug tested. Further, father and paternal grandmother both tested positive for methamphetamines and amphetamines. The mother's test was negative and the victim child remained in the case of the paternal grandmother both tested of the home. There was a safety plan case of the paternal grandmother (paternal) of the child in the home and that child's mother (paternal grandmother) agreed to leave the premises.

On 02/12/2016, the county received a largerial pertaining to the victim child's mother trying to break into the father's home by climbing through a window with the victim child in her arms. It was reported that the ladder fell and the victim child was injured. The investigation revealed that the mother and victim child did not climb through a window nor did they fall off a ladder. This report was rendered as unfounded.

On 02/20/2016, the county received a referral pertaining to the mother taking the victim child to a known high drug area to buy drugs. The report also read that the mother is high all the time and is currently home using the drugs with a friend. During the assessment, the mother was drug tested and the results were negative (02/24/16) and there was no observable drug paraphernalia or odor in the home and the victim child appeared clean and appropriate. This report was rendered as invalid. However, the case was transferred to the

On 02/28/2016, the county received a supplemental 22 referral pertaining to the mother going to the father's work place demanding money to buy drugs and the victim child was with her. The report also stated that the mother went to the father's home at 7:00 AM, also with the victim child, looking for money. The referral source stated that mother is actively using drugs; however, mother denied the allegations. This report was invalid.

On 03/23/2016, an Unknown reporter stated that there are drugs being used in the mother's home and the home is not clean. Also, it's unknown if anything happened mother than the state of the state of the state of the state of the no one was at the residence. However, it was noted that the worker left a voicemain message for mother.

Circumstances of Child Fatality and Related Case Activity:

On 03/25/2016, the county received a telephone call from stating that the victim child had passed away. It's reported that the police were called to home, by and found the victim child non-responsive. Moreover, it was reported by that had been napping with the victim child and when she woke up the victim child was non-responsive. Further, any have rolled on the child. The county worker



http://www.dhs.pa.gov/cs/groups/webcontent/documents/document/c_249428.pdf

GPS Historical Context

A GPS definition was added to Title 23 Pennsylvania's Domestic Relations Code in 1994 (via Act 151). At that time, the statute read:

"General protective services. Those services and activities provided by each county agency for nonabuse cases requiring protective services, as defined by the Department of Public Welfare in regulations."

The GPS definition and concept was woven into the state's Child Protective Services Law (CPSL) and 3490 regulations (effective in 1999) with a vision that Pennsylvania would operate a two-track or differential response child welfare system. As envisioned then, some reports would proceed down the formal child abuse investigation path.

Meanwhile, the GPS or "nonabuse" calls that demonstrated some concern about a child that, if unresolved, might lead to the child's abuse or neglect were seen as needing an assessment of the child/family's needs, strengths.



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GPS Historical Context - Michlovic amendment

During an October 5, 1993 debate in the PA House of Representatives related to House Bill 1001 (the vehicle that would become Act 151 of 1994), then Representative Michlovic offered an amendment (#3847) that "protects the counties."

Michlovic said his amendment – "recommended by Allegheny County" - would allow the counties to "prioritize the needs so that they can address the needs of the children that are in most distress and they can that on their own, judging on a case-by-case basis."

He added "these are not the most serious kinds of abuse cases. These are not the sexual and the physical abuse cases. These are under the general protective services kinds of requirements that we are now placing in HB 1001."



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GPS Historical Context - components of Michlovic amendment

- 1. Efforts to prevent need for removal from home providing that the county "make reasonable efforts prior to the placement of a child in foster care, to prevent or eliminate the need for removal of the child from his home, and to make it possible for the child to return home."
- 2. **Prioritization of services** so that services "are prioritized to those most in need" and based on "the approved risk assessment for the county." It continued that if the "amount of reasonable and necessary services" would "exceed the amount of allocated Federal, State and county funds" then the county "shall prioritize the provision of services to achieve the objectives of this chapter and the county shall be required to provide only those services for which sufficient funds are available."
- 3. Assistance in obtaining available benefits identifying that the county agency "shall aid the child and the family in obtaining benefits and services for which they may qualify under Federal, State and local programs." It was also stipulated that the county agency "shall not be responsible nor be required to duplicate services which are the statutory responsibility of any other agency."



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Historical Context - Michlovic amendment

During that October 1993 debate on House Bill 1001, Michlovic said that if the county children and youth agency was required, by the courts, to secure housing or "addictive treatment" the agency would then be facing a "whole slew of new kinds of costs, then the money in the agency is going to run out quickly."

He concluded:

"We are trying to protect the agency and we have them refer that client to the housing for housing purposes, refer that client to the mental health program for mental health services, refer them to the drug and alcohol treatment for drug and alcohol services, and not have those expenses come out of the children and youth services budget, and then some other child later on who needs these services will not have the money, will not be able to get any kind of protection under this act that we are presenting here. I remind the members of the House that this situation may not have surfaced in your county, but I suggest to you that it will surface in your county in not too many years."



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GPS Historical Context - Philadelphia Perspective

Representative Williams rose in support of Michlovic's amendment, during that October 1993 debate, stressing:

"We not only recognize in Philadelphia County that we need relief in this area but we recognize that Philadelphia actually functions as a microcosm for the rest of the State, and what we witness and what we suffer and what we endure, frankly, most of the State will at some point in time unfortunately suffer. Apparently, Allegheny County and some other small townships and boroughs are also witnessing the spiraling cost and need a manageable way to decide how they want to prioritize their money, how they want to expend those dollars, and how they at the end of the year are going to remain solvent from a county's standpoint."



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GPS Historical Context - Pittsburgh & Philadelphia "against the rest of us"

Chairman of the PA House Aging and Youth Committee, Kevin Blaum, responded to the Michlovic amendment saying "This is Pittsburgh and Philly against the rest of us.....the rest of us have to defeat this amendment."

Blaum said Allegheny County child welfare leaders "are terrific people who care a great deal about kids and want as strong a law as you and I do."

He continued that they, however, "have a problem in that in solving some abuse cases – this is going to take a while....in healing a family and putting that family back together again, all they may need is to get dad into drug and alcohol treatment and that family could be put back together again. What is happening is that the children and youth budgets of Allegheny County are not the ones that you and I intend to pay that bill. There may be other agencies that are supposed to pick up that table, and one thing I definitely want to do, with the help of the Aging and Youth Committee, is to carve out a piece of housing to put families back together again, carve out a piece of drug and alcohol money that will put families back together again, especially in our large metropolitan areas."

Blaum said the amendment "goes too far" as he offered that he had given Allegheny County officials his "word" that he would find a solution " so that these added costs are not put on to their already strapped county children and youth budgets."

The Michlovic amendment was approved 110 to 86.



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GPS Historical Context - Findings and Purpose

It was also Act 151 of 1994 that led to the inclusion of a "Findings" and "Purpose" element into the CPSL.

- (a) Findings.--Abused children are in urgent need of an effective child protective service to prevent them from suffering further injury and impairment.
- (b) Purpose.--It is the purpose of this chapter to encourage more complete reporting of suspected child abuse; to the extent permitted by this chapter, to involve law enforcement agencies in responding to child abuse; and to establish in each county protective services for the purpose of investigating the reports swiftly and competently, providing protection for children from further abuse and providing rehabilitative services for children and parents involved so as to ensure the child's well-being and to preserve, stabilize and protect the integrity of family life wherever appropriate. It is also the purpose of this chapter to ensure that each county children and youth agency establish a program of protective services with procedures to assess risk of harm to a child and with the capabilities to respond adequately to meet the needs of the family and child who may be at risk and to prioritize the response and services to children most at risk.



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 $http://www.legis.state.pa.us/WU01/LI/HJ/1993/0/19931005.pdf\#page{=}6$

GPS Historical Context - 3490 Purpose

Pennsylvania promulgated regulations outlining the "general requirements" for GPS. Those 3490 regulations, which took effect in 1999, remain in effect today with these identified "purposes":

- 1. Protect the safety, rights and welfare of children so that they have an opportunity for healthy growth and development.
- 2. Assist parents in recognizing and remedying conditions harmful to their children and in fulfilling their parental duties in a manner that does not put their children at risk.



http://www.pacode.com/secure/data/055/chapter3490/subchapCtoc.html

GPS Historical Context - 3490 Assessment Definition

"The Assessment - An evaluation by the county agency to determine whether or not a child is in need of general protective services."



http://www.pacode.com/secure/data/055/chapter3490/subchapCtoc.html

GPS Historical Context - 3490 Functions of The County Agency

§ 3490.231. Functions of the county agency for general protective services.

"Each county agency is responsible for administering a program of general protective services to children that is consistent with the agency's objectives to:

- (1) Keep children safely in their own homes, whenever possible.
- (2) Prevent abuse, neglect and exploitation of children.
- (3) Overcome problems that could result in dependency.
- (4) Provide temporary, substitute placement in the home of a relative, other individual who has a significant relationship with the child or the child's family, a foster family home or residential child-care facility for children in need of this care.
- (5) Reunite children safely with their families, whenever possible, when children are in temporary, substitute placement.
- (6) Provide a permanent, legally assured family for children in temporary, substitute care who cannot be returned to their own home.
- (7) Provide services and care ordered by the court for children who have been adjudicated dependent."



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GPS - 2012 Bulletin (#3490-12-01)

In 2012 the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (PA DHS) issued a bulletin specific to "establishing response times" for GPS reports.

The Bulletin, effective July 2012, cited concerns raised by the federal government during the state's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) in 2008. During that review, the federal government determined Pennsylvania was "not in substantial conformity" with Safety Outcome #1 (children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect). This triggered PA DHS to survey counties about their response times to GPS reports.

The bulletin then stipulated response times that varied from immediate to general/other that could be delayed for 7-10 calendar days. The bulletin also directed the counties to "clearly" document in the "record" the response time that was taken in response to the GPS report.



GPS - 2012 Bulletin (#3490-12-01)

An "immediate" response is needed if the report "indicates that a Present Danger exists which, by definition, meets the Safety Threshold. In order to reach the safety threshold, a condition must meet all of the following criteria: have potential to cause serious harm to a child; be specific and observable; be out-of-control; affect a vulnerable child; and be imminent. Present danger is defined as an immediate, significant and clearly observable threat to a child actively occurring in the present."

Meanwhile the "general" or 7-10 calendar day response can be chosen when the information "indicates that overall Risk Factors rated as low exist, which may place the child in danger of future harm. The information reported does not indicate that Present or Impending Danger exists and does not meet the safety threshold."



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GPS - Task Force on Child Protection (2012)

Between 1995 and December 2014, Pennsylvania collected no statewide data about GPS reports. GPS reports were not maintained in a statewide database to be used to inform future child abuse investigations or GPS assessments.

The Task Force recommended (and the legislature later agreed) to include GPS data in the statewide database.

The Task Force favors new statutory provisions involving the maintenance and use of reports of child abuse or neglect, with the elimination of the pending complaint file, the unfounded report file, the founded and indicated report file, and the central registry, to be replaced by a Statewide database containing all the information regarding reports of child abuse (regardless of their outcome) and general protective services cases.

http://www.childprotection.state.pa.us/Resources/press/2012-11-27%20 Child%20 Protection%20 Report%20 FINAL.pdf and the protection of th



GPS - Task Force on Child Protection (2012)

The Task Force also acknowledged that while the PA General Assembly had created GPS, the state isn't, in effect, operating a "differential response" to the reports counties receive.

One of the proposals having great promise for the reduction in overall governmental child protective service costs while actually improving the quality of services rendered is the establishment of "differential response" to reports of child maltreatment. The use of child protective services in some cases and general protective services in others is a beginning in that direction. In most differential response systems, the next step would be the establishment of an intake process which does not require a full evaluation of every case and which might entail the earlier referral to an appropriate community nonprofit organization for the rendition of appropriate services. Some of the language in the recommended legislation should facilitate the gradual adoption of differential response as resources permit.

http://www.childprotection.state.pa.us/Resources/press/2012-11-27%20Child%20Protection%20Report%20FINAL.pdf



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2017 - GPS Reports Made to ChildLine

§ 6332. Establishment of Statewide toll-free telephone number.

(a) General rule.--The department shall establish a single Statewide toll-free telephone number that all persons, whether mandated by law or not, may use to report cases of suspected child abuse or children allegedly in need of general protective services. A county agency or law enforcement official shall use the Statewide toll-free telephone number or electronic technologies for determining the existence of reports of child abuse or general protective services reports in the Statewide database or reports under investigation.

NOTE: While the statute requires that reports are to be made to ChildLine, there is also a 'no wrong door' provisions so that a person can make a report directly to the children and youth agency.



§ 6337. Disposition and expunction of unfounded reports and general protective services reports.

(a) General rule. --When a report of suspected child abuse is determined by the appropriate county agency to be an unfounded report, the information concerning that report of suspected child abuse shall be maintained for a period of one year. Following the expiration of one year after the date the report was received by the department, the report shall be expunged from the Statewide database, as soon as possible, but no later than 120 days after the one-year period following the date the report was received by the department, and no information other than that authorized by subsection (b), which shall not include any identifying information on any subject of the report, shall be retained by the department. The expunction shall be mandated and guaranteed by the department.

(b) Absence of other determination. -- If an investigation of a report of suspected child abuse conducted by the appropriate county agency pursuant to this chapter does not determine within 60 days of the date of the initial report of the instance of suspected child abuse that the report is a founded report, an indicated report or an unfounded report, or unless within that same 60-day period court action has been initiated and is responsible for the delay, the report shall be considered to be an unfounded report, and all information



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§ 6340.1. Exchange of information.

(a) Certified medical practitioners. -- In circumstances which negatively affect the medical health of a child, a certified medical practitioner shall, in a timely manner, provide the county agency with the following information when an assessment for general protective services or a child abuse investigation is being conducted or when the family has been accepted for services by a county agency:

services by a county agency:

(1) Relevant medical information known to the certified medical practitioner regarding the child's prior and current

health.

(2) Information from a subsequent examination.(3) Information regarding treatment of the chi

(3) Information regarding treatment of the child.
(4) Relevant medical information known regarding any other child in the child's household where such information may contribute to the assessment, investigation or provision of services by the county agency to the child or other

children in the household.

(b) Parental consent.--Parental consent is not required for the certified medical practitioner to provide the information

under subsection (a).

(c) Request by certified medical practitioner.--If requested by the child's primary care physician or a certified medical



http://www.legis.state.pa.us/WU01/LI/LI/CT/PDF/23/23.PDF

§ 6347. Reports to Governor and General Assembly.

(a) General rule. -- No later than May 1 of every year, the secretary shall prepare and transmit to the Governor and the General Assembly a report on the operations of the Statewide database and protective services provided by county agencies. The report shall include a full statistical analysis of the reports of suspected child abuse made to the department and the reports of general protective services made to the department or county agencies, together with a report on the implementation of this chapter and its total cost to the Commonwealth, the evaluation of the secretary of services offered under this chapter and recommendations for repeal or for additional legislation to fulfill the purposes of this chapter. All such recommendations should contain an estimate of increased or decreased costs resulting therefrom. The report shall also include an explanation of services provided to children who were the subjects of founded or indicated reports while receiving child-care services. The department shall also describe its actions in respect to the perpetrators of the abuse.



http://www.legis.state.pa.us/WU01/LI/LI/CT/PDF/23/23.PDF

§ 6347. Reports to Governor and General Assembly.

(a) General rule. -- No later than May 1 of every year, the secretary shall prepare and transmit to the Governor and the General Assembly a report on the operations of the Statewide database and protective services provided by county agencies. The report shall include a full statistical analysis of the reports of suspected child abuse made to the department and the reports of general protective services made to the department or county agencies, together with a report on the implementation of this chapter and its total cost to the Commonwealth, the evaluation of the secretary of services offered under this chapter and recommendations for repeal or for additional legislation to fulfill the purposes of this chapter. All such recommendations should contain an estimate of increased or decreased costs resulting therefrom. The report shall also include an explanation of services provided to children who were the subjects of founded or indicated reports while receiving child-care services. The department shall also describe its actions in respect to the perpetrators of the abuse.



http://www.legis.state.pa.us/WU01/LI/LI/CT/PDF/23/23.PDF

were the subjects of founded or indicated reports while receiving child-care services. The department shall also describe its actions in respect to the perpetrators of the abuse.

(b) Reports from county agencies. -- To assist the department in preparing its annual report and the quarterly reports required under subsection (c), each county agency shall submit a quarterly report to the department, including, at a minimum, the following information, on an aggregate basis, regarding general protective services and child protective services:

(1) The number of referrals received and referrals

accepted.

(2) The number of children over whom the agency maintains continuing supervision.

(3) The number of cases which have been closed by the agency.

 $(\bar{4})$ The services provided to children and their

families.

(5) A summary of the findings with nonidentifying information about each case of child abuse or neglect which has resulted in a child fatality or near fatality.



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(Dec. 16, 1994, P.L.1292, No.151, eff. July 1, 1995) General protective services responsibilities of county § 6373. agency.

- Program objectives .-- Each county agency is responsible for administering a program of general protective services to children and youth that is consistent with the agency's objectives to:
 - (1) Keep children in their own homes, whenever possible.

Prevent abuse, neglect and exploitation. (2)

Overcome problems that result in dependency.

- (4) Provide temporary, substitute placement in a foster family home or residential child-care facility for a child in need of care.
- (5) Reunite children and their families whenever possible when children are in temporary, substitute placement.
- (6) Provide a permanent, legally assured family for a child in temporary, substitute care who cannot be returned to his own home.
- (7) Provide services and care ordered by the court for children who have been adjudicated dependent.
- (b) Efforts to prevent need for removal from home. -- In its effort to assist the child and the child's parents, pursuant to Federal regulations, the county agency will make reasonable



http://www.legis.state.pa.us/WU01/LI/LI/CT/PDF/23/23.PDF

- (a) Duties of county agency.—The county agency shall make available a program of general protective services within each agency. The county agency shall perform those functions assigned by this chapter and others that would further the purposes of this chapter. It shall have sufficient staff of sufficient qualifications to fulfill the purposes of this chapter and be organized in a way as to maximize the continuity of responsibility, care and service of individual workers toward individual children and families. The department by regulation shall set forth staff—to—family ratios for the receipt and assessment of reports of children in need of protective services and for the provision of services to neglected children and their families.
- (b) Organization of county agency.--Each county agency shall be organized and staffed to ensure that the agency can provide intake for general protective services. Intake occurs when a report or referral is made to the agency or when a parent or person responsible for the child's welfare requests the assistance of the agency.
 - (c) Assessment for services. --
 - (1) Within 60 days of receipt of a report, an assessment shall be completed and a decision on whether to accept the family for service shall be made. The county agency shall

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Allegheny County 2016 Investigation and Assessment Expenditures = \$49,451,075 Total Reports, 14,139 Child Abuse Reports, 3,174 © 2017 www.C4Cl.org

