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**LEGISLATION REQUIRING OR AUTHORIZING
JOINT INVESTIGATIONS AND COOPERATION
BETWEEN LAW ENFORCEMENT AND
CHILD PROTECTION AGENCIES
IN CHILD ABUSE CASES**

Current through December 31, 1993

152788

U.S. Department of Justice
National Institute of Justice

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**NATIONAL CENTER
FOR PROSECUTION OF CHILD ABUSE**
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The National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse is a program of American Prosecutors Research Institute, the non-profit affiliate of the National District Attorneys Association. This paper was prepared under Grant Number 93-CI-CX-K001, awarded by the Office of Victims of Crime, U.S. Department of Justice. Points of view or opinions are those of the presenters and do not necessarily represent the official position of the U.S. Department of Justice.

The National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse maintains a collection of state statutes and relevant case law covering more than 40 areas of criminal child abuse and neglect. This compilation and others listed below represent a unique, comprehensive and up-to-date summary of state legislation significant to child abuse prosecution. The collection is updated annually and expands with the passage of new state legislation and major appellate decisions. The following summaries can be ordered from Publications, American Prosecutors Research Institute, 99 Canal Center, Suite 510, Alexandria VA 22314 (FAX: 703/549-6259):

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We are especially grateful to Gina Cirincion and Renee Kostick for their assistance with this compilation. Thanks also to Amanda Carnevale; Toni Dixon, Holly Streeter, and Kelly Throne for their valuable contribution.

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**Legislation Requiring or Authorizing Joint Investigations
and Cooperation Between Law Enforcement and
Child Protection Agencies in Child Abuse Cases***
(Current through December 31, 1993)

Alabama	Ala. Code § 12-15-76 (1990) Ala. Code § 26-16-13 (1985)
Arkansas	Ark. Code Ann. § 12-12-509 (1991) Ark. Code Ann. § 12-12-503 (1991)
California	Cal. Penal Code § 11166.3(a) (1988)
Colorado	Colo. Rev. Stat. § 19-3-308 (1993)
Florida	Fla. Stat. § 415.505 (1991) Fla. Stat. § 415.509 (1988)
Georgia	Ga. Code Ann. § 19-15-2 (1993)
Hawaii	Haw. Rev. Stat. § 587-21 (1992)
Illinois	55 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. § 80/3 (1992) 55 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. § 80/4 (1992) 325 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. § 5/7 (1992)
Indiana	Ind. Code § 31-6-11-10 (1993) Ind. Code § 31-6-11-11 (1993)
Kansas	Kan. Stat. Ann. § 38-1523 (1992)
Kentucky	Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 431.600 (1992)
Maryland	Md. Fam. Law Code Ann. § 5-706 (1988)
Michigan	Mich. Comp. Laws § 722.628 (1989)

* This compilation includes all statutes (excluding military and tribal statutes) that mandate or authorize joint investigations or cooperation between law enforcement and child protection agencies in child abuse cases. This summary does not include the procedural details given in many of the statutes, nor does this summary include provisions requiring cross-reporting of cases among agencies. The date listed in each citation is the year the statute was last amended.

Minnesota	Minn. Stat. § 626.556(10) (1993)
Missouri	Mo. Rev. Stat. § 660.520 (1990)
Montana	Mont. Code Ann. § 52-2-11 (1991)
Nebraska	Neb. Rev. Stat. § 28-728 (1992)
Nevada	Nev. Rev. Stat. § 432B.260 (1989)
New Hampshire	N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 169-C:38 (1988)
New Mexico	N.M. Stat. Ann. § 32A-1-3 (1993)
New York	N.Y. Soc. Serv. Law § 34-a (1988)
North Carolina	N.C. Gen. Stat. § 7A-544 (1992)
North Dakota	N.D. Cent. Code § 50-25.1-05 (1989) N.D. Cent. Code § 54-12-04.2 (1991)
Ohio	Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2151.421 (1992)
Oregon	Or. Rev. Stat. § 418.747(1) (1993)
Tennessee	Tenn. Code Ann. § 37-1-611 (1985)
Utah	Utah Code Ann. § 62A-4-509 (1988)
Virginia	Va. Code Ann. § 63.1-248.17 (1975)
Washington	Wash. Rev. Code § 26.44.035 (1985)
West Virginia	W. Va. Code § 49-6A-9 (1992)
Wisconsin	Wis. Stat. § 48.981 (1991)
Wyoming	Wyo. Stat. § 14-3-204 (1993)

OTHER LEGISLATION

Guam	10 Guam Code Ann. § 88204 (1993)
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**Summary of Legislation Requiring or Authorizing Joint Investigations
and Cooperation Between Law Enforcement and Child
Protection Agencies in Child Abuse Cases**
(Current through December 31, 1993)

ALABAMA

Ala. Code § 12-15-76 (1990)

In addition to all other current requirements for investigating and reporting child abuse and neglect, law enforcement agencies shall investigate complaints alleging offenses committed against children by alleged out-of-home perpetrators. The Department of Human Resources shall cooperate with law enforcement agencies in interviewing the alleged abuse of children.

Ala. Code § 26-16-13 (1985)

Law enforcement agencies of this state, social service agencies of this state, and state and local departments of human resources shall share information concerning investigations of suspected or actual child abuse or neglect when the sharing of such information is necessary to prevent or discover abuse or neglect of children.

ARKANSAS

Ark. Code Ann. § 12-12-509 (1991)

If the Department of Human Services receives notification of suspected child maltreatment that contains an allegation of severe maltreatment, the department shall initiate an investigation in cooperation with law enforcement agencies and the prosecuting attorney within 24 hours.

Ark. Code Ann. §12-12-503 (1991)

"Severe maltreatment" means sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, acts or omissions which may or do result in death, abuse involving the use of a deadly weapon, bone fracture, internal injuries, burns, immersions, suffocation, abandonment, medical diagnosis of failure to thrive, or causing a substantial and observable change in the behavior or demeanor of the child.

CALIFORNIA

Cal. Penal Code § 11166.3(a) (1988)

In each county the law enforcement agencies and the county welfare or social services department shall develop and implement cooperative arrangements in order to coordinate existing duties in connection with the investigation of suspected child abuse cases. The local law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over a reported case shall report to the county welfare department that it is investigating the case within 36 hours after starting its investigation.

COLORADO

Colo. Rev. Stat. § 19-3-308 (1993)

The county department of social services shall be the agency responsible for the coordination of all investigations of all reports of known or suspected incidents of intra-familial abuse or neglect. The county department shall conduct the investigation in conjunction with the local law enforcement agency, to the extent a joint investigation is possible and deemed appropriate, and any other appropriate agency.

The county department may arrange for the initial investigation to be conducted by another agency with personnel having appropriate training and skill. Contiguous counties may cooperate to fulfill the requirements of this section.

FLORIDA

Fla. Stat. § 415.505(1)(i) (1991)

The Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services shall orally notify the appropriate State Attorney and the appropriate law enforcement agency immediately upon receipt of a report alleging, or immediately upon learning during the course of an investigation that: a child died as a result of abuse or neglect; a child is a victim of aggravated child abuse; or a child is a victim of sexual battery or of sexual abuse.

Fla. Stat. § 415.505(4) (1991)

In cases of institutional abuse in which the multiplicity of the numbers of reports of child abuse or neglect or the severity of the allegations of child abuse or neglect indicates the need for specialized investigation by the Department in order to afford greater safeguards for the physical health, mental health and welfare of the children in care, the Department shall provide a team of persons specially trained in the areas of child abuse and neglect investigations, diagnosis, and treatment to assist the local office of the Department in expediting its investigation, recommending restrictive actions, classifying the report and assisting in other ways deemed necessary by the Department to carry out the provisions of the section. The team shall provide assistance to any investigation efforts of the allegation or allegations by local law enforcement and the Department of Law Enforcement.

Fla. Stat. § 415.509 (1988)

To the fullest extent possible, the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services shall cooperate with and seek cooperation of all appropriate public and private agencies, including health, education, social services, and law enforcement agencies, and courts, organizations, or programs providing or concerned with human services related to the prevention, identification, or treatment of child abuse or neglect.

GEORGIA

Ga. Code Ann. § 19-15-2 (1993)

Each county shall be required to establish a child abuse protocol as provided in this Code section. The chief superior court judge of the circuit in which the county is located shall establish a child abuse protocol committee which shall include representatives from the following: the office of the sheriff; the county department of family and children services; the office of the district attorney; the juvenile court; the magistrate court; the county board of education; the county mental health organization; the office of the chief of police of a county in counties which have a county police department; the office of the chief of police of the largest municipality in the county; the county board of health, which shall designate a physician to serve on the committee; and the office of the coroner or county medical examiner. The chief superior court judge shall designate a representative from a local citizen or advocacy group which focuses on child abuse awareness and prevention.

The committee shall adopt a written child abuse protocol which shall be filed with the Division of Family and Children Services of the Department of Human Resources, a copy of which shall be furnished to each agency in the county handling the cases of abused children. The protocol shall be a written document outlining in detail the procedures to be used in investigating and prosecuting cases arising from alleged child abuse and the methods to be used in coordinating treatment programs for the perpetrator, the family, and the child.

The purpose of the protocol shall be to ensure coordination and cooperation between agencies involved in a child abuse case so as to increase the efficiency of all agencies handling such cases, to minimize the stress created for the allegedly abused child by the legal and investigatory process, and to ensure that more effective treatment is provided for the perpetrator, the family, and the child.

HAWAII

Haw. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 587-21 (1992)

Upon receiving a report that a child is subject to imminent harm, has been harmed, or is subject to threatened harm, the department shall cause such investigation to be made as it deems to be appropriate. In conducting the investigation the department may enlist the cooperation of appropriate law enforcement authorities for phases of the investigation for which they are better equipped, and the law enforcement authority may conduct and provide to the department the results of a criminal history record check concerning an alleged perpetrator of imminent harm, harm, or threatened harm to a child and interview a child who is the subject of an investigation without the prior approval of and without the presence of the child's family, including temporarily assuming protective custody of the child for the purpose of conducting the interview, if the action is deemed necessary and appropriate under the circumstances by the department and a police officer.

ILLINOIS

55 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. § 80/3 (1992)

Each county shall establish a Child Advocacy Advisory Board that shall adopt a written child sexual abuse protocol. The purpose of the protocol shall be to ensure coordination and cooperation among all agencies involved in child sexual abuse cases so as to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of those agencies, to minimize the stress created for the child and his or her family by the investigatory and judicial process, and to ensure that more effective treatment is provided for the child and his/her family. In preparing the protocol, the Advisory Board shall consider an interdisciplinary, coordinated systems approach to the investigation of child sexual abuse.

55 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. § 80/4 (1992)

A Children's Advocacy Center may be established to coordinate the activities of the various agencies involved in the investigation, prosecution and treatment referral of child sexual abuse. Every Center shall include an interdisciplinary, coordinated systems approach to the investigation of child sexual abuse.

325 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. § 5/7 (1992)

To the fullest extent feasible, the Department of Children and Family Services shall cooperate with and shall seek the cooperation and involvement of all appropriate public and private agencies, including health, education, social service and law enforcement agencies, courts of competent jurisdiction, and agencies, organizations, or programs providing or concerned with human services related to the prevention, identification or treatment of child abuse or neglect.

INDIANA

Ind. Code § 31-6-11-10 (1993)

The child protection service shall cooperate with and shall seek and receive the cooperation of appropriate public and private agencies, including law enforcement agencies, the courts, and organizations, groups, and programs providing or concerned with services related to the prevention, identification, or treatment of a child who may be a victim of child abuse or neglect. Such cooperation and involvement may include consultation services, planning, case management, public education and information services, and utilization of each other's facilities, staff, and other training.

Ind. Code § 31-6-11-11 (1993)

Upon the receipt of a report of known or suspected child abuse, the child protection service shall contact the law enforcement agency in the appropriate jurisdiction, and the law enforcement agency, with the local child protection service, shall conduct an immediate onsite investigation of the report if the law enforcement agency has reason to believe that an offense has been committed. The law enforcement agency shall investigate the alleged child abuse or neglect under this section in the same manner that the law enforcement agency conducts any other criminal investigation.

KANSAS

Kan. Stat. Ann. § 38-1523 (1992)

When a report of child abuse or neglect indicates that there is serious physical injury to or serious deterioration or sexual abuse of the child and that action may be required to protect the child, the investigation shall be conducted as a joint effort between the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services and the appropriate law enforcement agency or agencies, with a free exchange of information between them. If a statement of a suspect is obtained by the law enforcement agency, a copy of the statement shall be provided to the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services on request.

Suspected child abuse or neglect which occurs in an institution operated by the Secretary of Social and Rehabilitation Services shall be investigated by an agent under the direction of the Attorney General.

Any other suspected child abuse or neglect by persons employed by the state Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services shall be investigated by the appropriate law enforcement agency under the direction of the appropriate County or District Attorney, and not by the state Department of Social or Rehabilitation Services.

If a dispute develops between agencies investigating a reported case of child abuse or neglect, the appropriate County or District Attorney shall take charge of, direct and coordinate the investigation.

Law enforcement agencies and the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services shall assist each other in taking action which is necessary to protect the child regardless of which party conducted the initial investigation.

Elementary and secondary schools, the state Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services and law enforcement agencies shall cooperate with each other in the investigation of reports of suspected child abuse or neglect. Administrators of elementary and secondary schools shall provide to employees of the state Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services and law enforcement agencies access to a child in a setting on school premises determined by school personnel for the purpose of the investigation of a report of suspected child abuse or neglect. To the extent that safety and practical considerations allow, law enforcement officers on school premises for the purpose of investigating a report of suspected child abuse or neglect shall not be in uniform.

KENTUCKY

Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 431.600 (1992)

Each investigation of reported or suspected sexual abuse of a child may be conducted by a specialized multidisciplinary team composed of law enforcement officers, social workers, Commonwealth's and county attorneys, and other related professionals, as necessary, operating under protocols governing roles, responsibilities, and procedures developed jointly by the Attorney General, the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Cabinet for Human Resources and the Justice Cabinet and promulgated by the Justice Cabinet as administrative regulations.

MARYLAND

Md. Fam. Law Code Ann. § 5-706 (1988)

On request by the local Department of Social Services, the local State's Attorney shall assist in the investigation of a report of suspected abuse or neglect of a child. The local Department of Social Services, the appropriate law enforcement agencies, the State's Attorney within each county and Baltimore City, the Department's office responsible for child care regulation, and the local health officer, shall enter into a written agreement that specifies standard operating procedures for the investigation and prosecution of reported cases of suspected abuse.

The agencies responsible for investigating reported cases of suspected sexual abuse, including the local Department of Social Services, the appropriate law enforcement agencies, and the local State's Attorney, shall implement a joint investigation procedure for conducting joint investigations of sexual abuse. The joint investigation procedure shall include appropriate techniques for expediting validation of sexual abuse complaints; include investigation techniques designed to decrease the potential for physical harm to the child and any trauma experienced by the child in the investigation and prosecution of the case; and establish an ongoing training program for personnel involved in the investigation and prosecution of sexual abuse cases.

MICHIGAN

Mich. Comp. Laws § 722.628 (1989)

The Department of Social Services shall cooperate with law enforcement officials, courts of competent jurisdiction, and appropriate state agencies providing human services in relation to preventing, identifying, and treating child abuse and neglect.

The Department shall seek the assistance of and cooperate with law enforcement officials within 24 hours after becoming aware that one or more of the following conditions exists:

- abuse or neglect is the suspected cause of death;
- the child is the victim of suspected sexual abuse or sexual exploitation;
- abuse or neglect resulting in "severe physical injury" to the child requires medical treatment or hospitalization ("severe physical injury" means brain damage, skull or bone fracture, subdural hemorrhage or hematoma, dislocation, sprains, internal injuries, poisoning, burns, scalds, severe cuts, or any other physical injury that seriously impairs the health or physical well-being of a child);
- law enforcement intervention is necessary for the protection of the child, a department employee, or another person involved in the investigation;
- the alleged perpetrator of the child's injury is not a person responsible for the child's health or welfare.

Law enforcement officials shall cooperate with the department in conducting investigations pursuant to this section.

Involvement of law enforcement officials shall not relieve or prevent the department from proceeding with its investigation or treatment if there is reasonable cause to suspect that the child abuse or neglect was committed by a person responsible for the child's health or welfare.

In each county the Prosecuting Attorney and the Department shall develop and establish procedures for involving law enforcement officials as provided in this section.

MINNESOTA

Minn. Stat. § 626.556(10) (1993)

If a report of child abuse alleges a violation of a criminal statute involving sexual abuse or physical abuse or neglect or endangerment, the local law enforcement agency and local welfare agency shall coordinate the planning and execution of their respective investigation and assessment efforts to avoid a duplication of fact-finding efforts and multiple interviews.

MISSOURI

Mo. Rev. Stat. § 660.520 (1990)

A special team within the Department of Social Services shall assist the county multi-disciplinary teams to develop and implement protocols for the investigation and prosecution of child sexual abuse cases. The team shall also assist in the investigation of child sexual abuse cases, upon the request of local law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, or the division of family services staff.

MONTANA

Mont. Code Ann. § 52-2-11 (1991)

The following persons and agencies operating within a county may by written agreement form a county interdisciplinary child information team: the youth court; the county attorney; the department of family services; the county superintendent of schools; the sheriff; the chief of any police force; and the superintendents of public school districts. The persons and agencies signing a written agreement may by majority vote allow the following persons to sign the written agreement and join the information team: physicians, psychologists, psychiatrists, nurses, and other providers of medical and mental health care; entities operating private elementary and secondary schools; attorneys; a person or entity that has or may have a legitimate interest in one or more children that the information team will serve.

The purpose of the team and written agreement is to facilitate the exchange and sharing of information that one or more team members may be able to use in serving a child in the course of their professions and occupations, including but not limited to abuse, neglected, dependent, and delinquent children and youth in need of supervision.

NEBRASKA

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 28-728 (1992)

It is the intent of the legislature to create a child abuse and neglect investigation team in each county or contiguous group of counties. The child abuse and neglect investigation team shall develop protocols which, at a minimum, shall include procedures for conducting joint investigations of child abuse and other child abuse and neglect matters which the team deems necessary, ensuring that a law enforcement agency will participate in the investigation, and sharing of case information. The child abuse and neglect treatment team shall develop protocols which, at a minimum, shall include procedures for case coordination and assistance, including the location of services available within the area.

NEVADA

Nev. Rev. Stat. § 432B.260 (1989)

An agency which provides protective services and a law enforcement agency shall cooperate in the investigation, if any, of a report of abuse or neglect of a child.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 169-C:38 (1988)

All law enforcement personnel and Bureau of Children (a division of the Department of Health and Human Services) employees shall cooperate in limiting the number of interviews of a child victim and, where appropriate, shall conduct joint interviews of the child. Employees of the Bureau shall share with the investigating police officers all information in their possession which it is lawful for them to disclose to a law enforcement agency. Investigating police officers shall not use or reveal any confidential information shared with them by the Bureau except to the extent necessary for the investigation and prosecution of the case.

NEW MEXICO

N.M. Stat. Ann. § 32A-1-3 (1993)

The Children's Code shall be interpreted and construed to provide for the cooperation and coordination of the civil and criminal systems for investigation, intervention and disposition of cases, to minimize interagency conflicts and to enhance the coordinated response of all agencies to achieve the best interests of the child victim.

NEW YORK

N.Y. Soc. Serv. Law § 34-a (1988)

Each social services district shall prepare a multi-year consolidated services plan encompassing adult services and children's services.

The regulations promulgated pursuant to this division shall require the multi-years services

plan to include a summary of the understanding between the local social services district and the District Attorney's office, which outlines the cooperative procedures to be followed by both parties in investigating incidents of child abuse and maltreatment, consistent with their respective obligations for the investigation or prosecution of such incidents.

NORTH CAROLINA

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 7A-544 (1992)

The Director of the Department of Social Services, or his/her staff, may consult with the available state or local law-enforcement officers who shall assist in the investigation and evaluation of the seriousness of any report of abuse or neglect when requested by the Director.

NORTH DAKOTA

N.D. Cent. Code § 50-25.1-05 (1989)

If a report of suspected child abuse or neglect alleges a violation of a criminal statute involving sexual or physical abuse, the Department of Human Services, or the Department's designee, and an appropriate law enforcement agency shall coordinate the planning and execution of their investigation efforts to avoid a duplication of fact finding efforts and multiple interviews.

N.D. Cent. Code § 54-12-04.2 (1991)

On the request of any State's Attorney, a child sexual abuse investigation and prosecution team shall assist with the investigation and prosecution of child sexual abuse cases, within the limits of legislative appropriation and available staff resources. The team consists of an Assistant Attorney General, an agent of the state Bureau of Criminal Investigation, and a licensed social worker employed by the attorney general.

OHIO

Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2151.421 (1992)

An investigation of a report of known or suspected child abuse or neglect shall be made in cooperation with the law enforcement agency and in accordance with a plan of cooperation for the county adopted pursuant to this statute. A failure to make the investigation in accordance with the plan of cooperation is not grounds for, and shall not result in, the dismissal of any charges or complaint arising from the report or the suppression of any evidence obtained as a result of the report and does not give, and shall not be construed as giving, any rights or any grounds for appeal or post-conviction relief to any person.

There shall be placed on file with the juvenile court in each county and the Department of Human Services an initial plan of cooperation.

The plan shall include standards and procedures to be used in handling and coordinating investigations of reported cases of child abuse and reported cases of child neglect, methods to

be used in interviewing the child, standards and procedures addressing the categories of persons who may interview the child, standards and procedures governing the making of a videotape of any interview, a system for sharing the information obtained as a result of any interview, and a system for reducing the number of times the child is interviewed.

The plan shall include any other standards and procedures, or systems that may minimize damage and trauma to the child.

OREGON

Or. Rev. Stat. § 418.747(1) (1993)

The District Attorney in each county shall be responsible for developing interagency and multidisciplinary teams which shall develop a written protocol for investigation of child abuse cases and for interviewing child abuse victims. All investigations of child abuse and interviews of child abuse victims shall be carried out using these protocols and procedures.

TENNESSEE

Tenn. Code Ann. § 37-1-611 (1985)

To the fullest extent possible, the Department of Human Services shall cooperate with and seek cooperation of all appropriate public and private agencies, including health, education, social services, and law enforcement agencies, and courts, organizations, or programs providing or concerned with human services related to the prevention, detection, intervention, or treatment of child sexual abuse. All state, county, and local agencies have a duty to give such cooperation, assistance, and information to the Department as will enable it to fulfill its responsibilities.

UTAH

Utah Code Ann. § 62A-4-509 (1988)

The family services division shall use an interdisciplinary approach whenever possible in dealing with reports of suspected child abuse. For this purpose the division shall convene appropriate interdisciplinary "child protection teams" to assist it in its protective, diagnostic, assessment, treatment, and coordination services. A representative of the division shall serve as the team's coordinator. Members of the team shall serve at the coordinator's invitation, and whenever possible, the team shall include representatives of health, mental health, education, law enforcement agencies, and other appropriate agencies or individuals.

VIRGINIA

Va. Code Ann. § 63.1-248.17 (1975)

All law enforcement departments and other state and local departments, agencies, authorities and institutions shall cooperate with each Child Protective Services Coordinator of a local department and any multi-disciplinary teams in the detection and prevention of child abuse.

WASHINGTON

Wash. Rev. Code § 26.44.035 (1985)

If the Department of Social and Health Services or a law enforcement agency responds to a complaint of child abuse or neglect and discovers that another agency has also responded to the complaint, the agency shall notify the other agency of their presence, and the agencies shall coordinate the investigation and keep each other apprised of progress. The Department, each law enforcement agency, each County Prosecuting Attorney, each City Attorney, and each court shall make as soon as practicable a written record and shall maintain records of all incidents of suspected child abuse reported to that person or agency.

WEST VIRGINIA

W. Va. Code § 49-6A-9 (1992)

The state department shall establish or designate in every county a local child protective services office to develop a protection plan which may involve law-enforcement officers or the court. To carry out the purposes of this article, all departments, boards, bureaus and other agencies of the state or any of its political subdivisions and all agencies providing services under the local child protective service plan shall, upon request, provide to the local child protective service such assistance and information as will enable it to fulfill its responsibilities.

WISCONSIN

Wis. Stat. § 48.981 (1991)

The county department responsible for investigating reports of suspected child abuse or neglect shall cooperate with law enforcement officials, courts of competent jurisdiction, tribal governments and other human service agencies to prevent, identify and treat child abuse and neglect.

WYOMING

Wyo. Stat. § 14-3-204 (1993)

The local child protective agency shall cooperate, coordinate and assist with the prosecution and law enforcement agencies in investigating a report of suspected child abuse or neglect. When the best interests of the child requires court actions, the agency shall contact the county and prosecuting attorney to initiate legal proceedings and assist the county and prosecuting attorney during the proceedings.

OTHER LEGISLATION

GUAM

10 Guam Code Ann. § 88204 (1993)

The Guam Police Department and Child Protective Services shall develop and implement cooperative arrangements to coordinate existing duties in connection with the investigation of suspected child abuse. Child Protective Services shall initiate the development and implementation of these arrangements, including the development and distribution of reporting forms. The Guam Police Department shall report to Child Protective Services that it is investigating a case within 36 hours after starting its investigation. In cases where a minor is a victim of criminal sexual conduct, Child Protective Services shall evaluate what action or actions would be in the best interests of the child victim in accordance with this Article. Except for acts or omissions coming within § 88201(t)(4), Child Protective Services shall submit in writing its findings and the reasons for them to the Attorney General's Office on or before the completion of the investigation.

National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse

The National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse was founded by the American Prosecutors Research Institute in 1985 in response to dramatic increases in child abuse cases reported to law enforcement. Its mission is to improve the investigation and prosecution of child abuse through professional specialization, court reform and interagency coordination.

By demanding full accountability for the crime of child abuse along with comprehensive support services for the child, the Center reflects the commitment of prosecutors to a particularly vulnerable group of victims. The Center is serving prosecutors' needs by providing:

Expert training and technical assistance through national and regional training conferences, on-site visits and phone consultations. Experienced trial and staff attorneys review cases, offer strategic guidance and forward up-to-date litigation and background documents in response to over 3,000 callers each year. In-depth training is provided to interdisciplinary audiences at some 70 conferences per year.

Clearinghouse on child abuse case law, statutory initiatives, court reforms and trial strategies. The Center maintains the only comprehensive collection of criminal child abuse case law and statutes--a continually updated and expanded resource. Written materials are supplemented by computer access to legal, medical and social service data bases.

Authoritative publications including the highly acclaimed guide, *Investigation and Prosecution of Child Abuse*, the informative monthly newsletter, *Update*, and a monograph series examining special issues.

Research on reducing trauma in court for child sexual abuse victims, child abuse fatalities, drug-affected children and parental abduction. The Center works closely with researchers, local prosecutors and specialists in exploring new avenues to protect children from abuse.

For information, write or call the National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse, American Prosecutors Research Institute, 99 Canal Center, Suite 510, Alexandria, VA 22314, 703/739-0321. FAX: 703/549-6259.