

FLORIDA CHILD ABUSE DEATH REVIEW



Created by the state Legislature (s.383.402, F.S.), Florida's Child Abuse Death Review Program reviews child abuse deaths with verified findings by the Florida Department of Children and Families. The Program is supported administratively by the Florida Department of Health, Children's Medical Services Division of Prevention and Intervention and uses state and local committees to analyze the facts and circumstances surrounding child abuse and neglect deaths.

The State Child Abuse Death Review Committee is made up of representatives from multiple agencies and departments including

- Florida Department of Education
- Department of Children and Families
- Florida Department of Law Enforcement
- Department of Health, and
- Office of the Attorney General.

Working to reduce preventable child deaths, the State Committee makes policy and program recommendations to improve child health, safety, and protection. These recommendations are a key feature in the Florida Child Abuse Death Review Committee's annual report which is submitted annually to the Governor, President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Local Committees throughout Florida support the State Committee by collecting data and reviewing information on cases at a local level. Providing a community-based perspective, Local Committees identify barriers or gaps in locally available services and develop new ways to meet families' needs. The Local Committees use standardized reporting guidelines and procedures within and among communities which generates more accurate reports of statewide child abuse deaths.

Proposed Changes to Committee's Scope

Currently, the Committee's review is limited to reviews of the facts and circumstances surrounding child abuse and neglect deaths in which a *verified* report of abuse or neglect was accepted by the Florida Abuse Hotline within the Department of Children and Family Services. The Committee would like to expand their review to all deaths reported to the Florida Abuse Hotline. This change will broaden the Committee's scope and help create more meaningful strategies to reducing preventable child deaths.

No child should ever have to die as a result of abuse or neglect. The Florida Abuse Death Review Team looks for trends and develops ways to protect Florida's most vulnerable population, our children.

