

Our Mission

Our mission is to facilitate citizen participation and provide opportunities for citizens to evaluate state and local child protection systems to ensure that child protection systems:

- ⇒ Provide the best possible services
- ⇒ Prevent and protect children from abuse and neglect
- ⇒ Meet the permanency needs of children

As a result, children will be safe; placed timely, in stable permanent living arrangements; have the opportunity for continuity of relationships; and have the opportunity to develop to their full potential

Contact Information

For more information on Pennsylvania's Citizen Review process please contact::

CAPTA Coordinator

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The Pennsylvania Child Welfare Training Program

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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

The Pennsylvania Child Welfare Training Program
Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare's
Office of Children and Youth and Families
Pennsylvania Children & Youth



Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) Citizen Review Panels

Pennsylvania's Citizen Review Panels



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Pennsylvania CAPTA Citizen Review Panels



Who We Are

CAPTA Citizen Review Panels are groups of citizen volunteers mandated through the CAPTA Amendments of 1996 to:

- ⇒ Evaluate child welfare agencies
- ⇒ Make recommendations for improvement in child protective services (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1998).

Citizen Review Panels provide opportunities for members of the community to take an active role in protecting children from abuse



History of Citizen Review Panels

- ⇒ Citizen Review panels were created through a 1996 amendment (Public Law 104-235) to the federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), requiring states to establish citizen review panels in order to receive funding for Child Abuse and Neglect State Grant Programs.
- ⇒ This allows the panels to evaluate state child welfare agencies and make recommendations for improvement in child protective services.

2003 Reauthorization of CAPTA requires:

- ⇒ Panels to evaluate PRACTICES as well as policies and procedures
- ⇒ Panels to develop a means for public outreach
- ⇒ Child welfare agencies to respond to annual reports within six months

Pennsylvania is now compliant with the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act

- ⇒ House Bill 2670 was signed into law as Act 146 by Governor Edward G. Rendell on November 9, 2006
- ⇒ This amended Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Law (CPSL)

What We Do

Citizen Review Panels must:

- ⇒ Be composed of volunteer members
- ⇒ Include individuals with expertise and interest in the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect
- ⇒ Meet quarterly
- ⇒ Examine policies and procedures of state and local agencies
- ⇒ Maintain confidentiality
- ⇒ Prepare an annual report of the panel's activities and future tasks

