



Pennsylvania Child Protective Services Law: An Update for Child Welfare Professionals

Child Protective Services Law (CPSL) in Pennsylvania has undergone substantial review and amendment. This online course is designed to highlight and explain recent changes in the law affecting the work of the Commonwealth's child welfare professionals, and to support effective implementation of the amended law. Pennsylvania Child Protective Services Law: An Update for Child Welfare Professionals is designed as a series of nine stand-alone modules. The overall objectives of the course are for the participant to:

- ✓ Recognize the ways that amendments to the Child Protective Services Law impact the work of child welfare professionals;
- ✓ Cite at least one way that the amended Child Protective Services Law promotes and enables better protection for Pennsylvania's children and youth, and the attainment of children's health and safety;
- ✓ Review the amended Child Protective Services Law to prepare for its implementation in the reporting and response to incidents of suspected child abuse and neglect;
- ✓ Relate the Child Protective Services Law amendments to the promotion of best practice as defined by the values and outcomes of Pennsylvania's Child Welfare Practice Model and the commitment to continuous improvement in the practice of child welfare;
- ✓ Identify effective dates of key amendments to the law and determine whether amended law applies to a given case;
- ✓ Identify what is retained, removed, or added to definitions and processes defined by the amended Child Protective Services Law;
- ✓ Explain the importance of the child welfare professional's role in supporting awareness of the changes and expansion of reporting responsibilities under amended law, and in communicating those responsibilities to others;
- ✓ Describe the increased collaboration with internal and external partners that amended law requires in a multi-disciplinary approach to investigation, including the function of Multi-Disciplinary Investigative Teams (MDITs) and of Child Advocacy Centers (CACs); and
- ✓ Locate at least one available resource to support successful implementation of the amended Child Protective Services Law.



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How to Access Online Trainings:

1. Obtain your username and password by emailing a request to cwtpreg@pitt.edu (if you do not already have it)
2. Go to www.e-learn.pitt.edu
3. Enter your username and password to log on
4. Click on the **Course Catalog** icon (second tab at the top of the screen)
5. Scroll down and choose the course you wish to enroll in by clicking the **Green Plus Sign** at the left of the screen
6. Click yes when the dialog box prompts you if you would like to enroll
7. Click the **My Courses** icon (first tab at the top of the screen)
8. Choose the online training you wish to participate in by clicking on the title of the workshop and then the orange arrow to the left of the screen



Pennsylvania Child Protective Services Law: An Update for Child Welfare Professionals Continued...

The PA Department of Human Services and Department of State have approved modules 1, 4, 5, and 6 to meet Act 31 requirements (**all** must be completed). The learning objectives for each of the modules are as follows:

- **Module 1: Introduction (1.5 CWRC training credits)**
 - Navigate and complete any of the modules in this series.
 - Create a personalized learning plan to support implementation of amended CPSL.
 - Briefly describe the role of Department of Human Services (the department), CCYA, and the community in protecting Pennsylvania's children from abuse.
 - Identify the range of state-level functions, supports, and services for children and families.
 - Identify ways community awareness and action strengthens the safety net for Pennsylvania children and families.
- **Module 2: Overview of Amendments (1.5 CWRC training credits)**
 - Identify the impetus for the CPSL and other statutory amendments.
 - Develop an individualized action plan based on the areas of legislative change that will have an impact on your daily routine and interactions with others.
- **Module 3: Link to Best Practice (1.5 CWRC training credits)**
 - Recognize Pennsylvania's Child Welfare Practice Model values and outcomes.
 - Describe ways in which child welfare professionals reflect the values embodied in Pennsylvania's Child Welfare Practice Model when implementing amendments to Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Law.
- **Module 4: Reporting: Reporting and the Role of the Child Welfare Professional (1 CWRC training credit)**
 - Identify training requirements for county children and youth agency employees, and other mandated reporters with whom they may interact.
 - Demonstrate knowledge of new reporting requirements, enabling them to provide guidance to support community understanding and compliance.
 - Correctly identify steps and related timeframes in the reporting process.
 - Determine actions when an agency receives a referral regarding suspected child abuse that crosses state lines.
- **Module 5: Investigation and Assessment (2.0 CWRC training credits)**
 - Identify the new requirements for investigating child abuse and conducting assessments.
 - Recognize the unique requirements when allegations of child abuse cross state lines.
 - Recognize enhancements for accessing and sharing information.
- **Module 6: Disposition of Cases (2.0 CWRC training credits)**
 - Define the key components added or revised by CPSL amendments that inform the determination of a disposition for a report of suspected child abuse.
 - Identify exclusions added or modified by CPSL amendments that affect the disposition of a report of suspected child abuse.
 - Apply decision trees to support the determination of a report of suspected child abuse.
 - Identify the county agency's and the department's responsibilities in providing notification of the outcome of a report of suspected child abuse or of a general protective services assessment.
- **Module 7: Appeals and Expunctions (2.0 CWRC training credits)**
 - Identify changes to the process for requesting a record to be amended or expunged.
 - Identify changes to the process for requesting reviews of records, administrative review appeals and appeals for indicated and founded reports of child abuse.
 - Identify the process and requirements for expunctions of certain types of dispositions.
- **Module 8: Child Custody (.75 CWRC training credits)**
 - Identify information that must be released to courts in the determination of child custody matters.
- **Module 9: Review and Resources (.75 CWRC training credits)**
 - Identify at least one online resource put in place to support successful implementation of the amended Child Protective Services Law.
 - Identify at least one additional resource of any kind put in place to support successful implementation of the amended Child Protective Services Law.