

Informational Resources and Websites

Child Advocacy Center (CAC)

A local public agency in this Commonwealth or a not-for-profit entity incorporated in this Commonwealth which:

1. is tax exempt under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (Public Law 99-514, 26 U.S.C. § 501 (c) (3)); and
2. operates within this Commonwealth for the primary purpose of providing a child-focused, facility-based program dedicated to coordinating a formalized multidisciplinary response to suspected child abuse that, at a minimum, either onsite or through a partnership with another entity or entities, assists county agencies, investigative teams and law enforcement by providing services, including forensic interviews, medical evaluations, therapeutic interventions, victim support and advocacy, team case reviews and a system for case tracking.

Multi-Disciplinary Investigative Team (MDIT)

A multi-disciplinary investigative team shall be used to coordinate child abuse investigations between county agencies and law enforcement. The county agency and the district attorney shall develop a protocol for the convening of multidisciplinary investigative teams for any case of child abuse ~ perpetrator involving crimes against children which are set forth in section 6340 (a) (9) and (10) (relating to release of information in confidential reports). The county multi-disciplinary investigative team protocol shall include standards and procedures to be used in receiving and referring reports and coordinating investigations of reported cases of child abuse and a system for sharing the information obtained as a result of any interview. The protocol shall include any other standards and procedures to avoid duplication of fact-finding efforts and interviews to minimize the trauma to the child. The district attorney shall convene the multi-disciplinary investigative team in accordance with the protocol. The multi-disciplinary investigative team shall consist of those individuals and agencies responsible for investigating the abuse or for providing services to the child and shall at a minimum include a health care provider, county caseworker and law enforcement official. A

(amended by Act 123 of 2013 effective 3/18/14)

Multi-Disciplinary Review Team

The county agency shall make available among its services a multi-disciplinary review team for the prevention, investigation and treatment of child abuse and shall convene the multi-disciplinary review team at any time, but not less than annually:

Terms Requested

1. To review substantiated cases of child abuse, including responses by the county agency and other agencies providing services to the child.
2. Where appropriate to assist in the development of a family service plan for the child.

Child Death Review

Child death review (CDR): A multi-agency, multi-disciplinary process that routinely and systematically examines the circumstances surrounding child deaths in a given geographical area and a given age group.

[http://www.health.pa.gov/My%20Health/Infant%20and%20Childrens%20Health/Newborns%20and%20Infants/Documents/2016_CDR_Annual_Report_2016_JMFinal\(2\).pdf](http://www.health.pa.gov/My%20Health/Infant%20and%20Childrens%20Health/Newborns%20and%20Infants/Documents/2016_CDR_Annual_Report_2016_JMFinal(2).pdf)

The mission of the [Pennsylvania Child Death Review](#) (CDR) program is to promote the safety and well-being of children and reduce preventable child fatalities. This is accomplished through timely reviews of child deaths. Information obtained from the reviews is used to determine how future deaths can be prevented.

The State CDR team was created in November 1994. In October 2008, legislation was enacted in Pennsylvania mandating the CDR Program. This law became effective in January 2009 and is referred to as Act 87. Statewide and county-based CDR teams conduct reviews of all deaths of children age 21 and under. Currently, there are 61 CDR teams throughout Pennsylvania. The teams are comprised of medical professionals, social workers, district attorneys, coroners, children and youth agencies, nurses, and others. CDR teams analyze data in order to develop the most effective prevention strategies to reduce the number of preventable child deaths in Pennsylvania. The teams design prevention education, trainings, and recommendations for legislation and public policy.

The CDR program is administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Health, staff support for this program is provided through the Bureau of Family Health.

<http://www.health.pa.gov/My%20Health/Infant%20and%20Childrens%20Health/Newborns%20and%20Infants/Pages/Child-Death-Review-Team.aspx#.WQdRohPyiV>