

Executive Order 2011-06

Establishing the Arizona Child Safety Task Force

WHEREAS, the safety of all children in the State of Arizona is of the utmost importance;

WHEREAS, every child has the right to a safe environment and protection from harm;

WHEREAS, the child protective services system in Arizona should promote and prioritize the safety of children and inspire public confidence;

WHEREAS, ensuring children's safety requires strong laws and sound practices;

WHEREAS, it is necessary to continuously monitor the effectiveness of the child protective services system and consider reforms to enhance child safety when appropriate;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janice K. Brewer, Governor of the State of Arizona, by virtue of the power vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State, do hereby establish the Arizona Child Safety Task Force and order as follows:

1. Membership of the Task Force shall include but not be limited to the following:
 - a) A judge who has experience with cases of child abuse or neglect;
 - b) A county attorney or their designee;
 - c) A medical professional with experience in treating children who have suffered acts of suspected abuse or neglect;
 - d) A victims' advocate;
 - e) A representative of a child abuse prevention and treatment organization;
 - f) A representative from a university responsible for the education and professional training of social workers;
 - g) The director of the Department of Economic Security;
 - h) The director of the child protective services program within the Department of Economic Security;
 - i) The director of the Governor's Office for Children, Youth, and Families; and
 - j) A representative from both the Arizona State Senate and the Arizona House of Representatives, both of whom shall serve as advisory members; and,
2. The Task Force shall engage subject-matter experts to offer additional professional advice, expertise, and testimony in the following areas: child protective services investigations and management, law enforcement investigations, the administrative office of the courts, social services, foster care, crisis shelters and group homes, and child welfare advocacy. Child protective services caseworkers and supervisors invited to participate shall be allowed to do so with impunity.
3. The Governor shall appoint all members of the Task Force, and in the Governor's sole discretion may appoint additional members with experience in best practices for enhancing the safety and welfare of children in Arizona.
4. The Governor shall appoint the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson from the membership of the Task Force.

5. The Task Force is charged with reviewing and identifying:
 - a) The current process by which cases of alleged abuse or neglect are detected, investigated, and addressed;
 - b) The current process by which the safety of children placed in the state's protective custody is monitored;
 - c) Current criteria for substantiating reports of child abuse or neglect and analysis of other states;
 - d) Best practices nationally for conducting investigations of child abuse or neglect, including the involvement of law enforcement in the investigation process;
 - e) Federal standards related to child protective services;
 - f) The education and professional training requirements of individuals employed by the state to investigate reports of child abuse or neglect; and, the education and professional training requirements of individuals employed by the state to supervise/manage child protective services caseworkers and caseloads; and
 - g) Improvements to investigation practices, staff development, caseload management, statistical reporting, resource allocation, technology, transparency and public information.

6. The Task Force shall provide to the Governor no later than December 31, 2011 their recommendations of any statutory, organizational, management or protocol reforms necessary to enhance the safety for children involved in investigations of suspected child abuse and/or neglect, including the safety of children placed in the state's protective custody.

7. The Task Force shall hold two public meetings before December 31, 2011.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona.

Janice K. Brewer
GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix, Arizona this 7th day of October in the Year Two Thousand and Eleven and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Thirty-sixth.

ATTEST:

Ken Blumett

SECRETARY OF STATE