

Iowa Child Death Review Team

LEGAL REFERENCES

The Child Death Review Team was established by law in 1995.

This law (Code of Iowa 135.43) describes the team membership and the specific responsibilities of the CDRT. Additional legislation was passed in 1998 that protects team representatives from liability while performing their duties to the team and protects entities that supply information to the CDRT for review.

The law also specifies the length of team appointment and attendance requirements for the CDRT members. The rules governing the team's operation may be found in the Iowa Administrative Code 641-90(135).

PURPOSE

The primary goal of the CDRT is to reduce the number of child fatalities through systematic multidisciplinary review, education of professionals and the general public, and recommendations for legislation and public policy. These recommendations are based on team reviews of circumstances surrounding individual cases of child death. The data are used to identify trends that require systemic solutions. Several recommendations made to the governor and general assembly by the CDRT have been implemented.

These include:

1. Expand case reviews of children through 17 years of age.
2. Improve child safety seat laws.
3. Increase penalties for child endangerment

CDRT reviews all child fatalities, including those resulting from child abuse and neglect. Since 1995, the Child Death Review Team has reviewed more than 5,312 child death cases..

The team's responsibilities include:

- Collection, review and analyses of child death certificates, data and records concerning the deaths of children ages birth through 17 years
- Preparation of an annual report summarizing the team's findings
The following link will access the most recent report:
http://www.idph.state.ia.us/hpcdp/common/pdf/publications/cdrt_report_2008.pdf
- Formulation of recommendations to the governor and general assembly about interventions that could prevent future child deaths.
- Formulation of recommendations to state agencies represented on the CDRT as to how they may improve services to children to prevent future child deaths.
- Maintenance of confidentiality of all records that the team reviews.
- Development of protocols for the CDRT.

MEMBERSHIP

The Child Death Review Team is composed of 14 members and seven state government liaisons. Each member represents a different profession or medical specialty. There is a member representing each of the following: perinatology, pediatrics, law enforcement, social work, mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence, family practice, state medical examiner, county attorneys, SIDS, insurance industry, emergency room, and also a member-at-large. Liaisons from the following state agencies also participate in review of child death cases: human services, public health, transportation, attorney general's office, education, vital records and public safety. These representatives are selected by their agency director with consideration of their expertise in child behavior, injury and death prevention, and their commitment to team attendance and inter-departmental cooperation.

Current members of CDRT:

Julia Goodin, Chief/State Medical Examiner
Jan Mackey, Social Worker
Dennis Klein, MD, State Medical Examiner's Office
Captain Timothy Luloff, Emergency Medical Services
Joseph Cowley, PHD, Substance Abuse Counselors
Christine O'Connell Corken, County Attorneys
Lois Finderman, Domestic Violence
Glenn Baughman, Mental Health
Michael Acarregui, MD, Perinatology
Chief Tom Kozisek, Law Enforcement
Barbara Harre, MD Vice-Chair, Pediatrics
Laurie Gehrke, Emergency Room Nurse
Gerald Loos, MD, Chair, Family Practice
Robert Wortman, Insurance Industry
Patty Keeley, SIDS Foundation

State Government Liaisons

Virginia Barchman, Attorney General's Office
Tom Southard, Representative, At-large
Charlotte Burt, Department of Education
Mitch Mortvedt, Department of Public Safety
Scott Falb, Department of Transportation
Rosemary Norlin, Department of Human Services
Herman Hein, MD, Department of Public Health
Rachel Prueitt, Support, Department of Public Health
Dr. John Kraemer, Coordinator, Forensic-State Medical Examiner

