

# STATE OF COLORADO

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Bill Owens, Governor  
Dennis E. Ellis, Executive Director

Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

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Colorado Department  
of Public Health  
and Environment

## COLORADO CHILD FATALITY PREVENTION SYSTEM Injury, Suicide, and Violence Prevention Section Prevention Services Division

A report to the Governor and members of the Health and Human Services Committees and the  
Judiciary Committees of the House of Representatives and the  
Senate of the Colorado General Assembly  
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## **Introduction**

Following the 2005 legislative session of the Colorado General Assembly, Governor Bill Owens signed the Child Fatality Prevention Act to be added to Article 20.5 of Title 25, Colorado Revised Statutes. The intent of the Child Fatality Prevention Act is to establish a statewide, multidisciplinary, multi-agency system to prevent child fatalities through the implementation of the following methods:

- Review specified deaths of Colorado children 0-18 years of age involving circumstances in which the deceased child was receiving services from a county department of social services or in which there had been a report of suspected abuse or neglect.
- Review all other unexpected and unexplained deaths of Colorado children 0-18 years of age.
- Understand the incidences and causes of childhood deaths.
- Identify services provided by public agencies to children and their families that are effective in the prevention of child abuse and neglect.
- Recognize gaps in the service delivery of public agencies that provide services to children and families.
- Recommend and implement changes in law, rules and policies that will support the safe and healthy development of children and will prevent child fatalities resulting from child abuse, neglect or other unexpected and unexplained causes.
- Develop a community approach to the problem of child abuse and neglect and to the prevention of childhood fatalities.

The Colorado Child Fatality Prevention System Review Team is housed at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment in the Injury, Suicide, and Violence Prevention Section of the Prevention Services Division. The review team replaces the former Child Fatality Review Committee, a volunteer committee conducting retrospective reviews of child deaths in the state from 1989-2005. The Child Fatality Prevention System and the review team will be staffed by Rochelle Manchego, Child Fatality Prevention System coordinator. Ms. Manchego can be reached at (303) 692-2573 or [rochelle.manchego@state.co.us](mailto:rochelle.manchego@state.co.us).

## **Activities to date**

In September 2005, Governor Bill Owens, by Executive Order, appointed the following 17 voting members to serve three-year terms ending on September 1, 2008:

- William G. Frangis, county sheriff, Elizabeth
- Charles R. Urbach, rural county sheriff, Haxtun
- Dr. Amy Martin, county coroner representative, Denver
- Dr. Kelly C. Lear-Kaul, county coroner representative, Littleton
- Brad L. Lenderink, peace officer specializing in crimes against children, Parker
- Laurel M. Vandermeulen, peace officer specializing in crimes against children, Englewood
- Christine E. Schober, district attorney representative, Parker

- Atrelle Jones, rural district attorney representative, Fort Morgan
- Dr. Larry Matthews, physician specializing in traumatic injury or children's health, Littleton
- Dr. Donna Rosenberg, physician specializing in traumatic injury or children's health, Denver
- Dr. Margaret A. Ferguson, physician specializing in traumatic injury or children's health, Denver
- Dr. Kathryn M. Wells, physician specializing in traumatic injury or children's health, Firestone
- Mary Pat DeWald, nurse specializing in traumatic injury or children's health, Evergreen
- Theresa A. Rapstine, nurse specializing in traumatic injury or children's health, Denver
- Robin J. Adair, local fire department representative, Monument
- Rebecca Parker, county attorney practicing in the area of dependency and neglect, Denver
- David Long, county commissioner representative, New Raymer

In addition to the above named appointees, the executive directors of the Colorado Departments of Human Services, Public Health and Environment, Education and Public Safety are charged with appointing members representing these service areas. To date appointees have been named by the Departments of Human Services and Public Health and Environment.

The first meeting of the review team is scheduled for Thursday, January 19, 2006 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Laboratory Services Training Room of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, 8100 Lowry Blvd., Denver. At this preliminary meeting, the review team may, by majority vote, select an additional 12 nonvoting members.

### **Future activities**

The review team's duties will include the formation of clinical committees to review, at a minimum, childhood deaths related to natural causes, unintentional injuries, violence, motor vehicle incidents, child abuse or neglect and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. The review team will outline trends and patterns of childhood death; identify risk factors; characterize groups of children at heightened risk for death; evaluate the services offered and the system responses of agencies and make recommendations for improvement; improve the quality and scope of data on childhood deaths; distribute information to the public, when funding is available; and serve as a link with local child fatality review teams and the National Child Death and Fatality Review Centers.

For additional information please contact Rochelle Manchego at (303) 692-2573 or at email address [rochelle.manchego@state.co.us](mailto:rochelle.manchego@state.co.us), or, Shannon Breitzman, program director of Injury, Suicide, and Violence Prevention Programs at (303) 692-2609 or [shannon.breitzman@state.co.us](mailto:shannon.breitzman@state.co.us).