



# Basics of Family Law and the Child Protective AGENCY

Dear Reader,

This document is a basic index of Family Laws and is a “Starting Point” for those that;

- are defending themselves against the Child Protective AGENCY in their state; and/or
- are involved as a Legislative Advocate to add or amend our numerous state statutes.>>>Advocate Checklist

Many don’t realize that our Country is a Republic and not a Democracy. By choosing to be a Republic, the goal was to create laws/statutes to govern ourselves.

The basic relationship between our Federal Government and State Government is:

- the Federal Government/Legislation creates Acts.
- The State Government/Legislation “interprets” these Acts and creates laws/statutes from their interpretation.

But let’ not forget the Executive Branch, who are the Federal or State Political Boundary leaders; and the Judicial Branch, who have the responsibility to make sure the established laws/statutes were properly applied.

In regards to the Child Protective AGENCY, they were given two basic task to preform:

- Protecting Children
- Strengthening Families

Noting, there was no particular “Priority” of either.

The above verbiage is how the Government is supposed to operate, but in Reality has this really happened? Many of us believe this has not been happening. Also, just released is a very detailed report titled, “Shame on U.S.” [Check it out](#). Plus use this information, in a Positive manner, to seek change for Our Families, Our Children, Our Future.



No need to read everything, but just to be aware of these statutes since each case is as unique as the individuals involved. Also, perhaps one might understand why many have stated:

If you don’t know your Rights, you have None?

Or, perhaps have heard this statement from a lawyer:

It’s not about Justice. It’s about the Law?

These documents are maintained by the [Child Welfare Information Gateway](#). and currently there are 39 Topics.

## About Child Welfare Information Gateway

Child Welfare Information Gateway promotes the safety, permanency, and well-being of children, youth, and families by connecting child welfare, adoption, and related professionals as well as the public to information, resources, and tools covering topics on child welfare, child abuse and neglect, out-of-home care, adoption, and more.



May you find Strength in your Higher Power, *Chuck Ferrari*

Owner/Senior Editor [GPC](#)

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National Team Coordinator

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## State Statute Summaries

Maintained by the [Child Welfare Information Gateway](#)

Rev: 02/15/2015

Category	Document Title
<b>Abuse &amp; Neglect</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Definitions</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Definitions of Child Abuse and Neglect</a>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Failure/False Reporting</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Penalties for Failure to Report and False Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect</a>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mandatory Reporters</b></li> </ul>	<a href="#">Mandatory Reporters of Child Abuse and Neglect</a>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross Reporting</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Cross-Reporting Among Responders to Child Abuse and Neglect</a>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clergy</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Clergy as Mandatory Reporters of Child Abuse and Neglect</a>
<b>Adoption</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consent</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Consent to Adoption</a>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact Birth Parent(s)</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Postadoption Contact Agreements Between Birth and Adoptive Families</a>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Court Jurisdiction</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Court Jurisdiction and Venue for Adoption Petitions</a>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expenses</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Regulation of Private Domestic Adoption Expenses</a>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitators/Advertising</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Use of Advertising and Facilitators in Adoptive Placements</a>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal Title IV-E</li> </ul>	<a href="#">*Federal Title IV-E and State Adoption Assistance: Summary of State Laws</a>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home Study</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Home Study Requirements for Prospective Parents in Domestic Adoption</a>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information Collection</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Collection of Family Information About Adopted Persons and Their Birth Families</a>

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Rev: 02/15/2015

Category	Document Title
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intercountry</li> </ul>	<a href="#">State Recognition of Intercountry Adoptions Finalized Abroad</a>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interstate</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Intestate Inheritance Rights for Adopted Persons</a>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Records</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Access to Adoption Records</a>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who May Adopt?</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Who May Adopt, Be Adopted, or Place a Child for Adoption?</a>
<b>Central Registry</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Abuse</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Establishment and Maintenance of Central Registries for Child Abuse Reports</a>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review/Expunction</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Review and Expunction of Central Registries and Reporting Records</a>
<b>Court Hearings</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permanency</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Court Hearings for the Permanent Placement of Children</a>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Representation</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Representation of Children in Child Abuse and Neglect Proceedings</a>
<b>Definitions</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best Interest</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Determining the Best Interests of the Child</a>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infant Safe Haven</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Infant Safe Haven Laws</a>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reasonable Efforts</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Reasonable Efforts to Preserve or Reunify Families and Achieve Permanency for Children</a>
<b>Domestic Violence</b>	<a href="#">Child Witnesses to Domestic Violence</a>
<b>Drug Use</b>	<a href="#">Parental Drug Use as Child Abuse</a>

## State Statute Summaries

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Rev: 02/15/2015

Category	Document Title
<b>Foster</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foster/Adoption</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Criminal Background Checks for Prospective Foster and Adoptive Parents</a>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home Study</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Home Study Requirements for Prospective Foster Parents</a>
<b>Immunity</b>	<a href="#">Immunity for Reporters of Child Abuse and Neglect</a>
<b>Permanency</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Concurrent Planning for Permanency for Children</a>
<b>Placement</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guardianship</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Standby Guardianship</a>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relatives</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Placement of Children With Relatives</a>
<b>Records</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Case Planning</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Case Planning for Families Involved With Child Welfare Agencies</a>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disclosure</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Disclosure of Confidential Child Abuse and Neglect Records</a>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Screening</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Making and Screening Reports of Child Abuse and Neglect</a>
<b>Resources: Other</b>	<a href="#">Online Resources for State Child Welfare Law and Policy</a>
<b>Rights: Unmarried Fathers</b>	<a href="#">The Rights of Unmarried Fathers</a>
<b>Termination of Parental Rights (TPR)</b>	<a href="#">Grounds for Involuntary Termination of Parental Rights.</a>

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