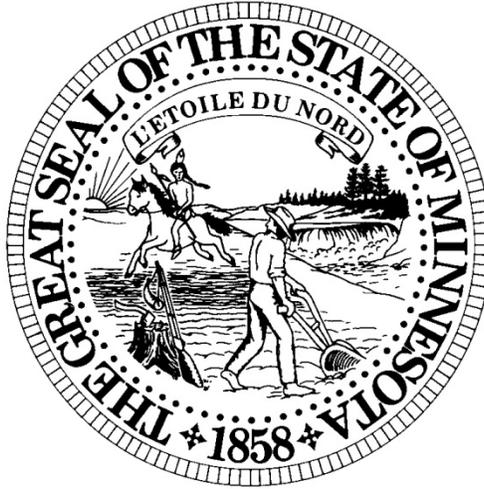


State of Minnesota
OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR
PROGRAM EVALUATION DIVISION



Child Protection Questionnaire

The Minnesota Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA) is evaluating child protection screening. Screening is the process used by child protection agencies to determine whether they should accept (i.e., “screen in”) reports of suspected child maltreatment for a child protection response.

You have received this questionnaire because, according to state records, you work in a profession that is among those required by *Minnesota Statutes* 626.556, subd. 3, to report suspected child maltreatment. It is important that our evaluation include perspectives of mandated reporters. We are sending this questionnaire to only a sample of mandated reporters, so it is especially important that we hear from you.

Your identity will be classified under Minnesota law as “private,” and only the staff at OLA working directly on the evaluation will have access to your responses. Any use of responses in our report will exclude information that could identify an individual.

This questionnaire is intended solely for current mandated reporters in Minnesota. **If you are not currently a mandated reporter in Minnesota, please check here ()**, and return the questionnaire in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. Thank you for your cooperation.

For the purpose of this questionnaire, please consider your experience as a mandated reporter in Minnesota.

1. How long have you been a mandated reporter in Minnesota?

- Less than a year
- 1 to 5 years
- More than 5 years

REPORTING SUSPECTED CHILD MALTREATMENT

2. Have you ever made a report of suspected child maltreatment in Minnesota?
 - Yes
 - No *(skip to Question 13)*
 - Don't recall *(skip to Question 13)*

3. In 2006 through 2010, approximately how many reports of suspected child maltreatment did you make?
 - None *(skip to Question 13)*
 - 1 to 4
 - 5 to 10
 - More than 10
 - Don't recall

4. In 2006 through 2010, to what county or tribe did you make the most reports of suspected child maltreatment? *(Please indicate one only. If you made reports to more than one county or tribe in about equal numbers, select one.)* _____

5. For what types of maltreatment did you report suspected child maltreatment in 2006 through 2010? *(Please check all that apply.)*
 - Medical neglect
 - Educational neglect
 - Neglect other than medical or educational neglect
 - Physical abuse
 - Sexual abuse
 - Don't know

6. Considering your experiences reporting suspected child maltreatment in 2006 through 2010, please indicate the extent to which you disagree or agree with the following statements about screening decisions. *(The "screening decision" is a child protection agency's determination whether to accept—i.e., "screen in"—a report of suspected maltreatment for a child protection response.)*

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree nor Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know or No Basis for Judging
For the most part, screening decisions made by the child protection agency I report to most often seem reasonable.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Screening decisions made by the child protection agency I report to most often seem to be pretty consistent.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Screening decisions made by different child protection agencies I have reported to seem to be pretty consistent.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. Based on your experiences reporting suspected maltreatment during the past five years, please indicate the extent to which you believe the following situations occur as the result of screening decisions.

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always	Don't Know or No Opinion
Screening decisions result in unneeded interventions in families.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Screening decisions keep families from getting services they need.	<input type="checkbox"/>					

8. Based on your experiences reporting child maltreatment, how—if at all—have screening decisions about suspected maltreatment changed over the past five years in the agency you report to most often?
- Many reports are screened in now (i.e., accepted for a child protection response) that would have been screened out before.
 - Some reports are screened in now that would have been screened out before.
 - There is little or no difference.
 - Some reports are screened out now that would have been screened in before.
 - Many reports are screened out now that would have been screened in before.
 - Don't know or no basis for judging

For the next several questions, please consider *your most recent experience reporting suspected maltreatment to the county or tribe listed in Question 4.*

9. For your most recent experience reporting suspected maltreatment to the county or tribe listed in Question 4, what type(s) of maltreatment did your report allege? (Please check all that apply.)
- Medical neglect
 - Educational neglect
 - Neglect other than medical or educational neglect
 - Physical abuse
 - Sexual abuse
 - Don't know

10. Did the child protection agency “screen in” your report (i.e., accept your report for a child protection response)?
- Yes
 - No
 - Don't recall
 - I was not informed one way or the other.

11. Still considering your most recent experience reporting suspected maltreatment to the county or tribe listed in Question 4, please indicate the extent to which you disagree or agree with the following statements.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree nor Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know or No Basis for Judging
The child protection worker to whom I reported my concerns was professional.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In my opinion, the child protection worker with whom I spoke asked good questions about my concerns.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The child protection worker explained what would happen next with my report.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In my opinion, the criteria used by the child protection agency to “screen” my report were reasonable.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In my opinion, the child protection agency appropriately applied criteria when “screening” my report.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I agreed with the child protection agency’s decision about whether to “screen in” my report.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. Overall, how satisfied were you with the way your most recent report was handled by the child protection agency to which you made the report?

- Very satisfied
- Satisfied
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied
- Don't know

13. In the past five years, have you considered **not** filing a report when you have suspected child maltreatment in Minnesota?

- Yes
- No (*skip to Question 15*)
- Don't recall (*skip to Question 15*)

14. Why did you consider **not** filing a report? (*Please check all that apply.*)

- I was not sure what criteria the child protection agency uses to screen reports.
- I did not think my suspicions were strong enough to justify a report.
- I thought the child protection system would do more harm than good.
- Child protection staff have "screened out" previous reports that I believe should have been pursued.
- I thought I could be more effective working with the child and/or family.
- Other (*please specify*): _____
- Don't recall

YOUR ROLE AS A MANDATED REPORTER

→ 15. Please indicate which of the following sources you have used *during the past year* to learn about responsibilities of mandated reporters regarding suspected child maltreatment. (*Please check all that apply.*)

- Information posted on a county or tribal Web site
- Mandated-reporter training posted on the Department of Human Services (DHS) Web site
- DHS publication *Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect: A Resource Guide for Mandated Reporters*
- Minnesota Statutes*
- Other (*please specify*): _____
- I have not used any sources during the past year.

16. When did you last attend a presentation about mandated-reporter responsibilities regarding suspected child maltreatment?

- During the past 12 months
- More than 12 months ago
- Don't recall
- I have never attended a presentation about mandated reporting of child maltreatment.

17. Do you feel adequately informed about mandated-reporter responsibilities for reporting suspected child maltreatment?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know or no opinion

18. In your current position, which of the following statements best reflects how you report suspected child maltreatment (or would report in the event of such a suspicion)?

- I report the suspected maltreatment to a person at work who is designated to make a report if he or she thinks it appropriate.
- I report the suspected maltreatment to the appropriate jurisdiction after getting the “okay” to report from another person where I work.
- I report the suspected maltreatment to the appropriate jurisdiction.
- Other (*please specify*) _____
- Don’t know

19. Do you feel adequately informed about who you should contact if you have concerns about possible child maltreatment?

- Yes
- No
- Don’t know or no opinion

20. How would you characterize your relationship with the child protection agency to which you most frequently report (or would report in the event of such a concern)?

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Non-existent
- Don’t know or no opinion

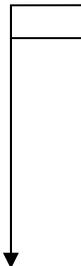
MALTREATMENT DEFINITIONS AND SCREENING GUIDELINES

21. Please indicate the extent to which you think **state law** provides adequate guidance for identifying each of the following types of maltreatment. (*If you are not familiar with the definition for one or more types of maltreatment, please check “Don’t Know or No Opinion” for those types.*)

	Adequate	Somewhat Adequate	Inadequate	Don’t Know or No Opinion
Medical neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Educational neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Neglect other than medical or educational neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Physical abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

22. Besides state law, child protection agencies use screening guidelines when making decisions. How familiar are you with the **screening guidelines** used by the child protection agency to which you most often report suspected child maltreatment (or would report in the event of such a suspicion)?

- Very familiar
- Somewhat familiar
- Not very familiar (*skip to Question 25*)
- Not at all familiar (*skip to Question 25*)



23. For each type of maltreatment, please check the option that most closely reflects your opinion of the **screening guidelines** used by the child protection agency to which you most frequently report (or would report in the event of such a concern). (If you are not familiar with the guidelines for one or more types of maltreatment, please check "Don't Know or No Opinion" for those types.)

	Criteria are too strict (i.e., too few reports are accepted)	Criteria are about right	Criteria are too loose (i.e., too many reports are accepted)	Don't Know or No Opinion
Medical neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Educational neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Neglect other than medical or educational neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Physical abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

24. Please indicate the extent to which you disagree or agree with the following statements. When considering agency **screening guidelines**, please consider those used by the child protection agency to which you most frequently report (or would report in the event of such a concern).

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree nor Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know or No Opinion
In my opinion, state law gives child protection agencies too much discretion over which reports to "screen in."	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In my opinion, screening guidelines give workers too much discretion over which reports to "screen in."	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Criteria in child protection screening guidelines are too vague.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Criteria in child protection screening guidelines seem somewhat arbitrary.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

→ 25. We expect to release our evaluation in the first part of 2012. If you would like to receive an e-mail announcement of its release, with a link to the full report, please include your e-mail address below:

_____.

Please use the space below for any comments you would like to make about the topics covered in this questionnaire or others related to child protection screening. If you need more space, feel free to attach additional pages.

Please return your completed questionnaire by September 19, 2011

You may: (1) complete it online following the instructions included separately, (2) mail it in the enclosed postage-paid envelope, (3) e-mail the completed questionnaire to carrie.meyerhoff@state.mn.us, (4) fax it to 651-296-4712, or (5) mail it in an envelope to: Office of the Legislative Auditor, 658 Cedar Street, Room 140, St. Paul, MN 55155.

Thank you for your response!