

Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on the Department of Child Safety

PURPOSE: To review: (1) the Department's implementation of policy and procedures and program effectiveness; (2) all reports on program outcomes released by the Department to the Legislature for trends and areas for statutory improvement and audits issued by the office of the Auditor General related to the Department; (3) policies and procedures relating to guardianships and dependency proceedings; and (4) systemic factors related to alleged child maltreatment fatalities or near fatalities, the Committee may; (a) critically analyze the systemic factors that may have contributed to an alleged child maltreatment fatality or near fatality, including the laws, policies and practices of the Department of Child Safety, the Department of Economic Security, the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System and any other state agency that may have been involved in the safety and welfare of the child or with the child's family and the perpetrator, including any economic, health, social services, supports and resources, to identify improvements that could mitigate future child maltreatment fatalities or near fatalities, (b) review interagency coordination and communication; (c) identify best practices and services that may prevent future maltreatment fatalities or near fatalities and review the recommendations submitted by the Child Safety Fatality and Near Fatality Review Team; (d) enter into executive session when necessary to promote the privacy and safety of the decedent's family or employees of the Department of Child Safety; and (e) review reports produced and presented by the Child Safety Fatality and Near Fatality Review Team and request additional information and follow up on details associated with a report.

MEMBERSHIP:

House Two members of the House of Representatives from different political parties, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives:
Walter "Walt" Blackman, Sarah Liguori

The Chairperson of the House of Representatives Committee that addresses child safety issues to serve as Co-Chair:
Selina Bliss (Co-Chair)

Senate Two members of the Senate from different political parties, appointed by the President of the Senate:
Hildy Angius, Theresa Hatathlie

The Chairperson of the Senate Committee that addresses child safety issues to serve as Co-Chair:
Carine Werner (Co-Chair)

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Notes: The Committee shall meet at least biannually, and a majority of the members constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business. Laws 2021, Chapter 285 struck the repeal date of 7/1/25. No end date now.

CONTACT: Michael Madden, Senate Research Staff, Ahjahna Graham, House Research Staff

REPORT DATE: None

EXPIRATION DATE:

STATUTORY CITE: A.R.S. 41-1292; Laws 2017, Chapter 282, Section 5 and Chapter 338, Section 8; Laws 2021, Chapter 285, Section 46; Laws 2024, Chapter 53, Section 2