



## ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

SUBJECT: Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment

PURPOSE: To examine the administration of the Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment.

**Wednesday  
October 9th, 2024  
Hearing Room B  
Legislative Office Building  
11:00 am**

### ORAL TESTIMONY WILL BE BY INVITATION ONLY

The New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) oversees the administration of the Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment (SCR). The SCR accepts calls from mandated and non-mandated reporters alleging acts of child abuse or maltreatment and plays a critical role in ensuring the safety of children throughout the state. In recent years, New York State has taken meaningful steps to improve the SCR process. The Committee is interested in reevaluating the SCR and the reporting process to determine whether further improvements are needed.

According to OCFS, there were nearly 300,000 calls placed to the SCR in 2022, and roughly half of these calls (148,000) were registered and accepted for investigation. Of those calls, only 20% were ultimately indicated for child abuse or maltreatment. This data highlights that 80% of the total calls accepted by the SCR in 2022 were ultimately deemed unfounded, subjecting families to potentially unnecessary and, in some cases, invasive child protective services (CPS) investigations. Even if a report is deemed unfounded, families under investigation may be subject to unannounced home inspections, requests for medical and educational records, and in-depth interviews. These events can have adverse effects on children and families.

The Committee seeks to receive testimony from relevant stakeholders to ascertain how the SCR accepts reports of abuse and maltreatment. Specifically, the committee seeks to gather information regarding the administration of the Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment; initial and continuing education and training requirements, including training on applying state laws in practice; and any recommendations to potentially improve such practices.

Persons invited to present pertinent testimony to the Committee at the above hearing should complete and return the enclosed reply form by **Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>**. It is important that the reply form be fully completed and returned so that persons may be notified in the event of emergency postponement or cancellation.

Oral testimony will be limited to five minutes' duration. In preparing the order of witnesses, the Committee will attempt to accommodate individual requests to speak at particular times in view of special circumstances. These requests should be made on the attached reply form or communicated to Committee staff as soon as possible.

Ten copies of any prepared testimony should be submitted at the hearing registration desk. The Committee would appreciate advance receipt of prepared statements.

Attendees and participants at any legislative public hearing should be aware that these proceedings are video recorded. Their likenesses may be included in any video coverage shown on television or the internet.

In order to further publicize these hearings, please inform interested parties and organizations of the Committee's interest in hearing testimony from all sources.

In order to meet the needs of those who may have a disability, the Assembly, in accordance with its policy of non-discrimination on the basis of disability, as well as the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), has made its facilities and services available to all individuals with disabilities. For individuals with disabilities, accommodations will be provided, upon reasonable request, to afford such individuals access and admission to Assembly facilities and activities.

**Andrew D. Hevesi**

**Member of Assembly  
Chair**

**Committee on Children and Families**

**PUBLIC HEARING REPLY FORM**

Persons invited to present testimony at the public hearing on the administration of the Statewide Central Register are requested to complete this reply form by **Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>** and mail, email, or fax it to:

Lauren Ryan, Analyst  
Assembly Committee on Children and Families  
Room 442 – Capitol  
Albany, New York 12248  
Email: ryanl@nyassembly.gov  
Phone: (518) 455-4371  
Fax: (518) 455-4693

- I plan to attend the following public hearing on the administration of the Statewide Central Register to be conducted by the Assembly Committee on Children and Families on Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>.
  
- I have been invited to make a public statement at the hearing. My statement will be limited to five minutes, and I will answer any questions which may arise. I will provide 10 copies of my prepared statement.
  
- I will address my remarks to the following subjects:

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- I do not plan on attending the above hearing.
  
- I would like to be added to the Committee mailing list for notices and reports.
  
- I will require assistance and/or handicapped accessibility information. **Please specify the type of assistance required:** \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_