



CHILD FATALITY TEAM

“ Tennessee is part of a national movement to identify why children are dying and what preventative measures can be taken.” -TDH

Child Fatality Review and Prevention Act

- TCA 68-142-101 through 109
- Enacted in 1995
- Established statewide network of CFRT's
- CFRT's established in TN's 31 judicial districts

Duties of Local Teams

- Review all deaths of children 17 years of age or younger
- Collect data according to the protocol developed by the state team
- Submit data on child deaths quarterly to the state team

Duties of State Team

- Review reports of local child fatality review teams
- Report to the governor & general assembly concerning the state team's activities & its recommendations for changes to any law, rule, & policy that would promote the safety & well-being of children

Duties of State Team

- Undertake annual statistical studies of the incidence & causes of child fatalities
- Provide training & written materials to local teams to assist them in carrying out their duties
- Develop a protocol for the collection of data regarding child deaths

Duties of State Team

- Upon request of a local team, provide technical assistance to such team, including authorization of another medical or legal opinion on a particular death
- Periodically assess the operations of child fatality prevention efforts & make recommendations for changes as needed

Duties of Local Teams

- Submit annually to the state team recommendations, if any, & advocate for system improvements & resources where gaps & deficiencies may exist
- Participate in training provided by the state team.

Composition of Local Team

- Supervisor of social services in DCS
- Regional health officer, who serves as interim chair
- Medical examiner
- Prosecuting attorney
- Local law enforcement
- Mental health professional
- Pediatrician/Family Practice physician
- Emergency Medical Service Provider
- Representative of juvenile court

Progress Updates

- Creation of a nurse home visiting pilot program for up to 100 1st time mothers
- Increase home visits that they make & make sure they are evidence based
- Creation of the Fetal & Infant Mortality Review (FIMR)
- Tennessee Non-Smokers Protection Act