

# Mandatory Reporting Task Force Final Report

## Introduction

Mandatory reporting is the requirement for people in certain occupations to make a report if they have a suspicion that child abuse or neglect is taking place. The Colorado legislature created the Mandatory Reporting Task Force to issue recommendations on how to improve the state's mandatory reporting policies. The task force has just released its [final report](#), which can be found [here](#).

## Problem

The task force was asked to clarify existing law as well as make recommendations that would address and decrease the overrepresentation of under-resourced communities, families of color and people with disabilities in the child welfare system. The goal of the task force was to create an equitable mandatory reporting system that ensures the protection of children.

## The Task Force's Recommendations and Responses Revolve Around the Following Themes:

1



**Recognizing and Addressing the Disproportionate Impacts of Mandatory Reporting Law and Policies**

2



**Clarifying Reporting Processes and Requirements**

3



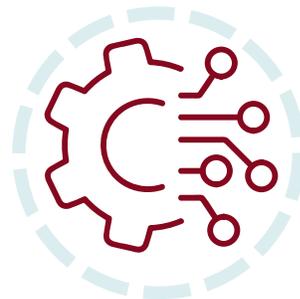
**Creating and Requiring Mandatory Reporter Training**

4



**Addressing Requirements for Specialized Occupations**

5



**Reviewing and Improving Data and Information Systems**

# Solution

The Mandatory Reporting Task Force's [final report](#) contains recommendations to create a system that better – and more equitably – serves Colorado's children, families and communities.

**Recognizing and Addressing the Disproportionate Impact of Mandatory Reporting Law and Policies:**

The task force analyzed the effectiveness of mandatory reporting, crafted recommendations to address and reduce its disproportionate impacts on certain communities, and recommended what should be done if a family would benefit from services rather than an abuse or neglect report.

**Clarifying Reporting Processes and Requirements:**

The task force created recommendations addressing a mandatory reporter's timeline for reporting, whether they must report outside their professional capacity, whether joint reports can be made, whether a reporting duty can be delegated to someone else and whether places like hospitals and schools can create their own institutional policies.

**Creating and Requiring Mandatory Reporter Training:**

Four recommendations address mandatory reporter training, including whether training should include details about the law, standardized teachings about implicit bias, information on how counties determine thresholds for assessment and investigation, and what requirements should exist for licensed professionals.

**Addressing Requirements for Specialized Occupations:**

The task force also addressed reporting requirements for those creating safety plans for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking; those working for attorneys; and those professionals addressing medical child abuse.

**Reviewing and Improving Data and Information Systems:**

These recommendations address what personal information of children is collected, the potential benefits of an electronic reporting platform, and processes for sharing information between agencies and to mandatory reporters.

## Questions?

If you have any questions about the task force or its final report, please contact:

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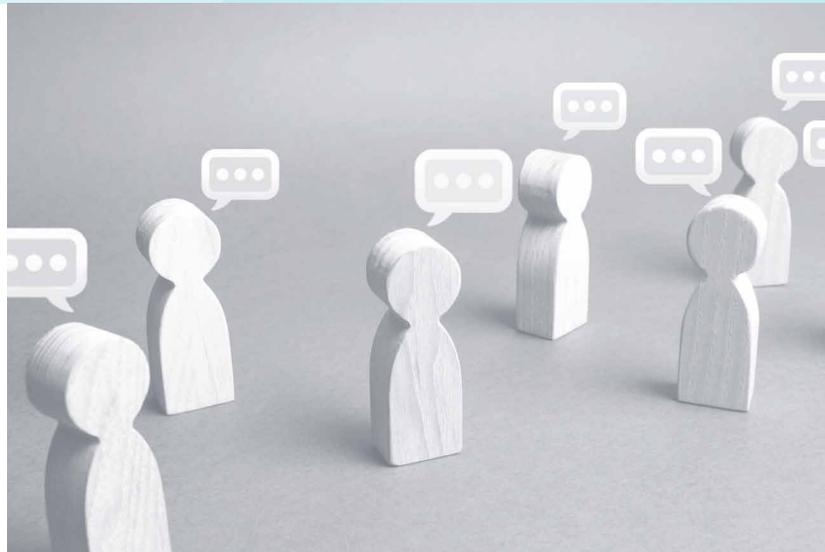
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## **ABOUT THE OFFICE OF COLORADO'S CHILD PROTECTION OMBUDSMAN**

The Office of Colorado's Child Protection Ombudsman (CPO) is an independent state agency committed to ensuring the state's child protection system consistently provides high quality service to every child, family and community in Colorado. The CPO studies the child protection system to ensure a better future for Colorado's children and youth. By researching and highlighting issues within Colorado's publicly funded safety nets, the CPO is working to create a better child protection system now and for the future.



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