

### §5308. Office of Child and Family Services

There is within the Department of Health and Human Services the Office of Child and Family Services. The office must be a separate, distinct administrative unit that is not integrated in any way as a part or function of any other administrative unit of the department. The office is equal in organizational level and status with other major organizational units within the department or its successors. The office is under the immediate and full supervision of the commissioner or the chief officer of whatsoever unit succeeds the department. [PL 2023, c. 405, Pt. A, §71 (AMD).]

It is the intent of this Part that the office function as a central office administrative unit of the department and that the powers, duties, authority and responsibility of the office may not be delegated, decentralized or assigned to regional, local or other units of the department, except as provided in this section and section 6108. Regarding any portion of this Part and Part 2 that relate to provision of services directly to eligible people through staff employed subject to the Civil Service Law by the department or other organizational units of State Government, the office may carry out its powers and duties through regional or other administrative units of the department or State Government. [PL 2023, c. 405, Pt. A, §71 (AMD).]

Regarding any portion of this Part and Part 2 that relate to development, execution and monitoring of agreements, the office shall carry out its powers and duties directly with public or private, nonprofit agencies without acting through other administrative units of the department as intermediaries, except as provided in section 6108. Functions relating to agreements do not require the approval of any other unit of the department, except as the office is responsible and accountable to the commissioner and except as provided by section 6108. [PL 2023, c. 405, Pt. A, §71 (AMD).]

The office is the sole agency of State Government responsible for administration of this Part and Part 2 subject to the direction of the commissioner. The office shall fully coordinate with appropriate state agencies and fully utilize existing support services. [PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. CCCC, §6 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1973, c. 793, §12 (NEW). PL 1975, c. 293, §3 (AMD). PL 1979, c. 541, §A155 (AMD). PL 1981, c. 10, §2 (AMD). PL 1985, c. 785, §B96 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 400, §§11,14 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 824, §A48 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 689, §B6 (REV). PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. CCCC, §6 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 405, Pt. A, §71 (AMD).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

*All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the First Special Session of the 132nd Maine Legislature and is current through January 1, 2026. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.*

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.