

§26201. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings. [PL 2025, c. 724, §3 (NEW); PL 2025, c. 724, §13 (AFF).]

1. Advisory committee. "Advisory committee" means the Advisory Committee to the Child Advocate under section 26209.

[PL 2025, c. 724, §3 (NEW); PL 2025, c. 724, §13 (AFF).]

2. Child. "Child" means a person who is under 18 years of age who is in the custody of or receiving services from or arranged through a state agency, or is qualified to receive such services, or in the past 3 years has been in such custody or received such services. "Child" also means a person who is under 18 years of age and is in custody or detention in any Department of Corrections juvenile correctional facility.

[PL 2025, c. 724, §3 (NEW); PL 2025, c. 724, §13 (AFF).]

3. Child Advocate. "Child Advocate" means the individual appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Legislature pursuant to section 26204 to serve as the administrator of the Office of the Child Advocate and to perform all other duties as assigned in this chapter.

[PL 2025, c. 724, §3 (NEW); PL 2025, c. 724, §13 (AFF).]

4. Office. "Office" means the Office of the Child Advocate established in section 26202.

[PL 2025, c. 724, §3 (NEW); PL 2025, c. 724, §13 (AFF).]

5. Oversight. "Oversight" means reviewing, monitoring and recommending changes to a state agency's implementation of laws and rules and all contracted programs, providers, services and activities of that state agency as well as that state agency's policies, procedures and practices.

[PL 2025, c. 724, §3 (NEW); PL 2025, c. 724, §13 (AFF).]

6. Record. "Record" means information created, received, possessed or controlled by or on behalf of a state agency.

[PL 2025, c. 724, §3 (NEW); PL 2025, c. 724, §13 (AFF).]

7. Safety science. "Safety science" means the systematic application of evidence-based methods of incident review that recognize human error not as cause, but consequence and symptom of conditions of the system in which decisions are made. A process grounded in safety science takes into account all the influencing factors on decision making to determine the adequacy of the infrastructure that supports decisions and influences outcomes.

[PL 2025, c. 724, §3 (NEW); PL 2025, c. 724, §13 (AFF).]

8. Services. "Services" means residential or home and community-based children's behavioral health services or child welfare services provided directly by the Department of Health and Human Services or indirectly through a private provider or services provided by the Department of Corrections in a secure facility for children involved in the juvenile justice system. "Services" does not include standard juvenile correctional security practices.

[PL 2025, c. 724, §3 (NEW); PL 2025, c. 724, §13 (AFF).]

9. State agency. "State agency" means a department, bureau or office of the State, including any public or private child service agency providing services under contract or agreement with a state agency to a child.

[PL 2025, c. 724, §3 (NEW); PL 2025, c. 724, §13 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2025, c. 724, §3 (NEW). PL 2025, c. 724, §13 (AFF).

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