

Dear Texas ORR Care Providers:

As you may already be aware, Texas DFPS will no longer investigate claims of child abuse and neglect at ORR grantee or contractor care providers in Texas in accordance with Governor Abbot's [Emergency Proclamation](#), which is currently in effect through **January 8, 2022**. We do not yet know whether the new rule will persist beyond that date. Despite TX DFPS not investigating these allegations, DFPS will continue to follow well-established processes in place to route allegations of child abuse to your respective, local law enforcement agency and Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs). The local law enforcement agency, in coordination with their local CAC multidisciplinary team, will determine which allegations will be investigated.

Please note that all reporting requirements remain in effect as per the ORR Manual of Procedures. The following only applies to allegations of child abuse previously reported to TX DFPS to investigate child abuse. To ensure local law enforcement and CACs receive child abuse allegations for investigation, please follow these additional reporting steps:

Step 1

- Report the allegation to the Texas Abuse Hotline, either online at <https://www.txabusehotline.org/Login/Default.aspx> or by phone at 1-800-252-5400.
- DFPS advises that for reports that need to be investigated urgently (within 24), you should call the phone number, but if the report is not urgent and can wait a few days before being followed up, then you should use the online system.
- When you make the report to DFPS, you should separately report the allegation to your local law enforcement to engage them in the investigation as soon as possible.

Step 2

- The DFPS Hotline Reporter will send the intake of the complaint to your local enforcement and to your local CAC.
- Despite this, as noted in Step 1, you should still make the report to your local enforcement to ensure that they get engaged as soon as possible.

Step 3

- Local law enforcement and your local CAC will confer on the details provided on the DFPS intake.
- Law enforcement, in coordination with the CAC multidisciplinary team, will review the information and conduct necessary follow-up to first determine if a case meets case criteria and if so, how to proceed with the investigation. From that point, any updates and information from the subsequent investigation will come from law enforcement, not CAC. If local law enforcement decides they need to engage federal law enforcement, they will coordinate based on their own protocols.
- Alternatively, if after receiving the intake from DFPS, law enforcement decides not to investigate, that means neither law enforcement nor CAC will investigate the allegation. However, your local CAC may still offer mental health and victim support services to the child and their non-offending family or caregiver. If additional information is ever subsequently revealed, the case could be re-opened, though.

Please also note that, notwithstanding the above, current ORR reporting requirements involving allegations of child abuse and neglect outlined in the UC MAP 4.10 and 5.8 and ORR Policy Guide [4.10](#) and [5.8](#) remain in effect and should continue to be strictly followed. Additionally, ORR's Child Welfare Specialists and ORR's Prevention of Sexual Abuse (PSA) Team will help support the FFSs and POs assigned to the Texas programs to ensure that all SIRs and SA/SIRs receive the necessary follow-ups and that interventions are informed by child welfare best practices. Thus, please remember to continue sending inquiries and updates related to SA/SIRs to the PSA Team at psac@acf.hhs.gov. Finally, as a reminder, this guidance only refers to significant incidents that are already reportable to Child Protective Services in accordance with ORR Policy Guide 4.10 and 5.8. This guidance does not create new requirements to report additional incidents beyond those described in the Policy Guide.