

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

County DataCollection

WHAT

The 86th Legislature created new requirements for Texas counties to collect and report child protective services (CPS) data. See SB 560 (HERE)



WHY

Right now, Texas can't answer questions about court-appointed counsel in CPS cases statewide.

The new data will help Texas answer:

- How many CPS cases with assigned counsel does Texas have?
- How much does Texas spend on CPS representation?
- What types of representation are most common?
- What are the qualifications to take CPS appointments?
- How are attorneys compensated?



HOW

Texas counties will report CPS data to the Office of Court Administration (OCA) through the Texas Indigent Defense Commission's (TIDC) website. Reporting will be similar to what counties report about indigent defense. See sample report (HERE)



TWO PHASE

OCA is rolling out reporting in 2 phases:

- Phase 1: All counties will report summary-level data, including total CPS appointments and expenditures for FY21, by November 1, 2021.

- Phase 2: Using in-person training, webinars, and technical support, OCA and TIDC will work with counties during FY21 to ramp up the ability to collect detailed CPS data.



Accurate data will help Texas understand how to improve the quality of representation for parents and children and increase positive outcomes for families in CPS cases.

Read more at

<https://www.txcourts.gov/judicial-data/child-protective-services/>