

ANNA M. ECKHART
MAGISTRATE JUDGE, KOOTENAI COUNTY
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

IDAHO CHILD PROTECTIVE ACT
IDAHO CODE 16-1601 – 16-1643

Idaho Code 16-1601 states in pertinent part:

The policy of the state of Idaho is hereby declared to be the establishment of a legal framework conducive to the judicial processing, including periodic review of child abuse, abandonment and neglect cases, and the protection of any child whose life, health or welfare is endangered. At all times the health and safety of the child shall be the primary concern.

In 2012, Idaho's child welfare system was ranked No. 1 in the nation by Foundation for Government Accountability

The anatomy of a Child Protection Act case and Title IV-E compliance requirements.

In state fiscal year 2015:¹

IDHW received 22,065 referrals statewide related to child safety.

- 13,082 were considered “information & referral only”
- 8,983 were investigated/assessed
 - 6,335 classified as neglect
 - 2,209 classified as physical abuse
 - 431 classified as sexual abuse
 - 8 classified as “other”
- Of those 8,983 cases assessed
 - 2,188 ranked as Priority 1 (~24.36%)
 - 1,401 ranked as Priority 2 (~15.6%)
 - 5,394 ranked as Priority 3 (~60.1%)

¹ Statistics provided 12/21/15 by Research Analyst at the Idaho Department of Health of Welfare

- Of those 8,983 cases assessed
 - Approximately 12.2% of referrals were substantiated and 758 Child Protection Petitions were filed
 - 1,174 kids entered foster care
 - Equates to a 5.3% “conversion rate” from the original number of referrals.

543 cases utilized in-home services (This is the number of cases with In-Home services that did not involve any Foster Care during the year)

758 Child Protection petitions were filed.

Total number of children in care (new and previous intakes) = 2,434 children
More children exited care than entered in FY15 (1,205 children exited care)