

Child Abuse and Prevention Treatment Act: CAPTA

CAPTA is a Federal law governing state child protection systems.

Key Requirements for states:

- Establish Citizen Review Panels (CRPs) to provide independent oversight.
- Review child protection policies, procedures, and practices.
- Evaluate whether systems effectively protect children from abuse and neglect.
- Submit annual reports and recommendations to improve the system.

Purpose:

- CAPTA ensures that community members have a role in reviewing how child protection systems operate.

In Alaska:

- Alaska currently operates a statewide Citizen Review Panel
- The panel focuses on a system-level review of OCS policies and practices.

SB 123: Citizens' Review Panels

Structure:

- Establishes local citizen review panels in each judicial district.
- Members appointed by the Governor.
- Panels operate independently from the Office of Children's Services.
- A state Citizens' Review Panel coordinates the program.

Purpose:

- To provide community oversight of permanency planning for children placed in out-of-home care.

What SB 123 Panels Do

- Review case plans for children placed in out-of-home care.
- Evaluate progress toward permanency.
- Receive input from OCS, parents, guardians, and service providers.
- Issue written advisory recommendations.

Important:

- Panels do not replace courts or OCS.
- They provide independent citizen review and recommendation.

