



Alaska Children's Justice Act Task Force

Legislative Lunch and Learn Presentation

February 2014

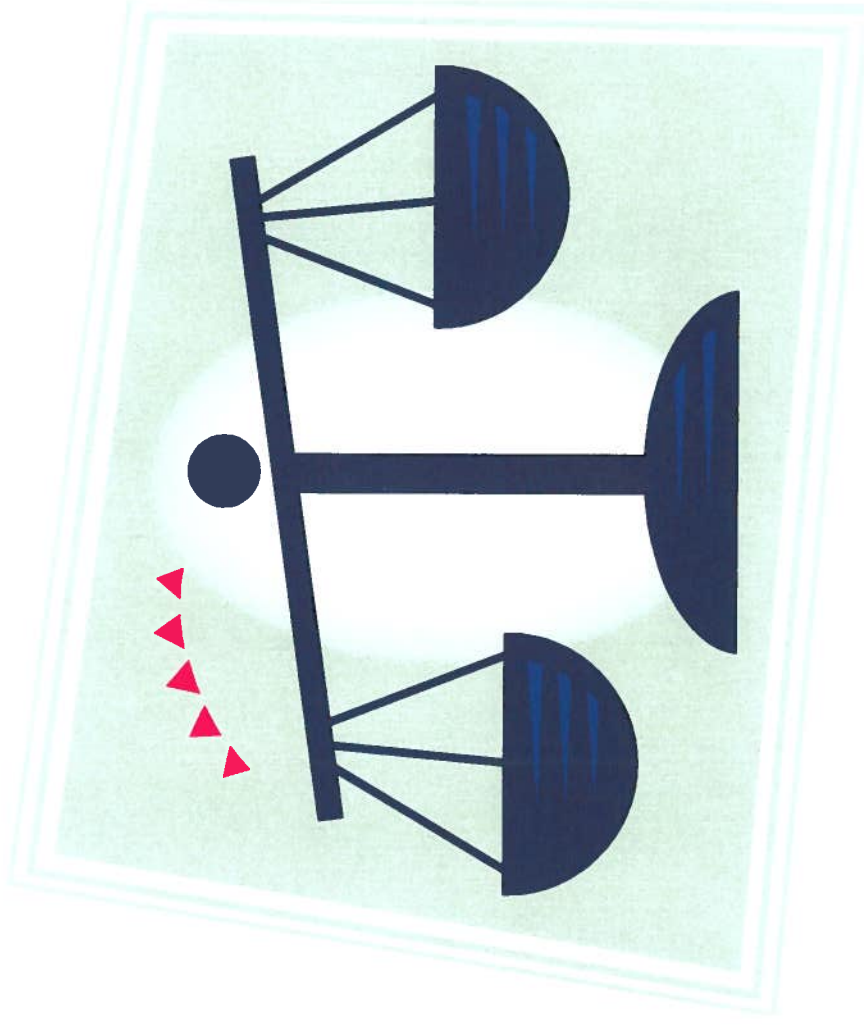
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- **Mission:** *Identify areas where improvement is needed in the statewide response to child maltreatment, particularly child sexual abuse, make recommendations and take action to improve the system.*

Recommendations



Problem #1: MDT statutes need to be updated to match current best practice

Current MDT statute

- ...suggests that **only** OCS has the authority to convene multidisciplinary child protection teams to assist in the evaluation and investigation of reports of harm

However:

- ...many cases do not involve OCS
 - Example: child molested by neighbor, parents are protective
 - Criminal case only
- Leads to confusion, concern as to whether MDT meetings are protected by statute as currently written

Recommendation:

- Amend MDT statutes to clarify that:
 - Other MDT members may refer cases to the MDT
 - OCS does not need to be present at every MDT investigation or meeting in order for the process to be considered an MDT under this statute
- Technical amendments including:
 - Membership
 - Meeting frequency
 - MDT purpose and benefits statement