

Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice
Bylaws
Adopted January 11, 2007

Article I – Name and Purpose

Section 1 – Name. Pursuant to Executive Orders No. 1991-38 and 1993-8 and Title I, Section 107(a)-(f) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, as amended, the Governor of the State of Michigan established the Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice (hereinafter "Task Force") within the Executive Office of the Governor.

Section 2 – Purpose. The purpose of the Task Force is to:

1. Review and evaluate State investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of cases of child abuse, particularly sexual abuse cases; and,
2. Make recommendations in each of the following categories:
 - a. Investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of cases of child abuse, particularly sexual abuse cases, in a manner which reduces the additional trauma to the child victim and which also ensure procedural fairness to the accused;
 - b. Experimental, model, and demonstration programs for testing innovative approaches and techniques which may improve the rate of successful prosecution or enhance the effectiveness of judicial and administrative action in child abuse cases, particularly child sexual abuse cases, and which also ensure procedural fairness to the accused; and,
 - c. Reform of State laws, ordinances, regulations, and procedure to provide comprehensive protection for children from abuse, particularly sexual abuse, while ensuring fairness to all affected persons.
3. Function as a state-wide coordinating council to:
 - a. Oversee implementation of recommendations contained in the findings in each of the categories listed in Article I, Section 2 (2) (a)-(c);
 - b. Develop state-wide protocols adaptable to local needs;
 - c. Develop a state-wide comprehensive initiative to educate the public about child abuse and neglect; and,
 - d. Submit to the Governor a report of its findings and recommendations in each of the categories identified under Article I, Section 2.

Article II – Membership

Section 1 – Representation of Task Force Membership. The Task Force shall be composed of members representing:

- a. The law enforcement community;
- b. Judicial and legal officers (including individuals involved with both the defense and prosecution of such cases);
- c. Child advocates;
- d. Health and mental health professionals;
- e. Representatives of child protective service agencies;
- f. Individuals experienced in working with children with handicaps;
- g. Parents and representatives of parents' groups;
- h. Court-appointed special advocates; and,
- i. Citizens with experience in any of the above.

Section 2 – Term of Membership. The Task Force members shall be appointed for a term of two (2) years.

Section 3 – Compensation. Members of the Task Force shall serve without compensation except that they may be reimbursed for allowable travel and other approved expenses in connection with Task Force meetings and business.

Section 4 – Chairperson. The Governor shall designate the Chairperson of the Task Force. The Chairperson of the Task Force shall perform the duties ordinarily ascribed to such office and shall preside, or arrange for a designee to preside, at all meetings of the Task Force. The Chairperson shall also serve as an ex-officio member of all committees of the Task Force and shall make such reports on behalf of the Task Force to the Governor as may be required.

Section 5 – Staff. Staff for the Task Force shall be provided by the Department of Human Services or its successor department.

Article III – Task Force Meetings and Manner of Acting

Section 1 – Regular Meetings. Regular meetings of the Task Force shall be held at least quarterly. Such meetings shall take place at locations, dates, and times determined by the Chairperson after consultation with members of the Executive Committee

Section 2 – Notice of Meetings. Except as otherwise provided herein, Staff for the Task Force, in consultation with the Chairperson, shall notify Task Force members of a meeting at least thirty (30) days in advance and shall provide by written or electronic means a meeting agenda to each Task Force member at least ten (10) days in advance.

Section 3 – Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Task Force may be called by the Chairperson provided that: (a) when possible, at least seven (7) days written or electronic notice is given to Task Force members; (b) such notice sets forth the purpose of the special meetings;

and (c) no other business is conducted during the special meeting.

Section 4 – Quorum Requirements. A quorum at any regular or special meeting of the Task Force shall be necessary to transact business and shall consist of a majority of the Task Force membership.

Section 5 – Manner of Acting. At all meetings of the Task Force, each member shall have one (1) vote. Except as otherwise provided herein, voting by members of the Task Force shall be in person.

Section 6 – Telephonic or Electronic Voting. If, after consultation with the Executive Committee, the Chairperson determines that time is of the essence on a matter which requires a vote by the Task Force, voting may occur by telephonic or electronic means under the following conditions:

- a. Staff for the Task Force shall facilitate and record telephonic or electronic votes;
- b. A quorum for the purposes of telephonic or electronic voting is based upon the number of responses submitted to Staff; and,
- c. No other business is conducted during the telephonic or electronic exchanges.

Time is of the essence if requisite notice of the matter for a regular or special meeting is impractical or if the Chair determines there is other good cause.

Section 7 – Interaction With Other Agencies. The Task Force is authorized to request and to review such policy and technical information as is required in the discharge of its responsibilities from all State departments and agencies.

Article IV – Committees

Section 1 – Executive Committee. The Executive Committee of the Task Force shall consist of the Chairperson and other Committee chairs and Task Force members as assigned by the Chairperson. The Executive Committee shall meet prior to each regular meeting and at any other time designated by the Chairperson.

Section 2 – Committee Organization. In addition to the Executive Committee, the Task Force shall be organized into committees as needed and as approved by the Task Force, with membership to be determined by individual interest and expertise as much as possible; however, in order to achieve balance among committees, the Chairperson may request that members with a particular area of expertise be assigned to a specific committee.

Section 3 – Committee Chairs. The Chairperson shall determine the chairs of the committees.

Section 4 – Committee Meetings. Committee meetings shall occur as needed between regularly scheduled Task Force meetings and may occur in person or by way of teleconferencing

or electronic means. Committees may only make recommendations and are not authorized to act upon recommendations unless and until the recommendations are approved by the Task Force. Committee chairs shall prepare a report of activities and recommendations to be presented at the Executive Committee and Task Force meetings.

Article V – Amendments

The Bylaws of the Task Force may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular or special meeting of the Task Force provided that the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing or by electronic means to all members at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting.