



Building the World's Capacity to Protect Children and Strengthen Families

IHS Newsletter

There have been quite a few news headlines recently that have captured significant attention: the spy balloons over North America, the devastating 7.8 earthquake in Turkey and Syria, and a mass shooting at Michigan State University. While our news won't lead to a diplomatic or humanitarian crisis, or a debate over whether that final holding penalty in the Super Bowl was legit, we did want to keep you up to date with the happenings at the Institute for Human Services and our important work at the Center for Child Policy.

Spring/Summer Trainings Announced Soon



Our Winter trainings are now at full capacity, but our new Spring/Summer training schedule will be available soon. We are excited to offer a number of new trainings to you, so be on the lookout for the schedule coming to your inbox in March. As a reminder, because you are on our email distribution list, you get three days' advance notice to register before the general public, so don't delay when you receive our email notification.

Visit the New Center for Child Policy Website

Visit Our New Website!

LIVE NOW!



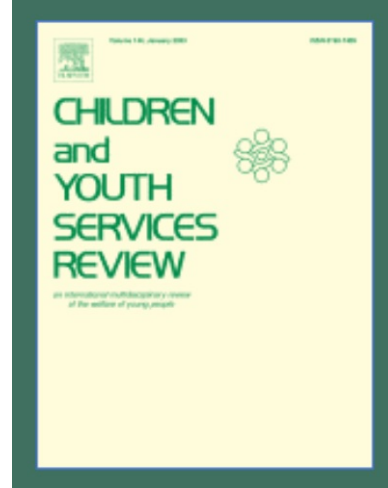
Applying the best available evidence to resolve critical issues in child maltreatment policy and practice.

Check out our fully revamped Center for Child Policy website that just launched. It features a new design and is full of some terrific resources for those serving the maltreated. Take a look for yourself at www.centerforchildpolicy.org.

The Child Policy Center is a collaboration between the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, the Institute for Human Services and The New York Foundling.

Mandatory Reporting and the Retaliation Factor

Child & Youth Services Review recently published "**Mandatory Reporting and the Retaliation Factor**", a paper written by Franne Sippel of the Center for Child Policy (CCP) Mandated Reporting Committee, Karyl Meister, and Pamela Miller. This study found that Mandated Reporters (MRs) of child maltreatment (CM) who experience some form of retaliation (such as being sued by the alleged child abusers) are more hesitant to report suspected CM in the future, **making children less safe.**



Mandated Reporters are typically teachers, social workers, and other child-serving professionals that are required by law to report any suspicion of child abuse or neglect to the authorities. In some states, every adult 18 years or older is required to report CM. For several years, the federal child welfare law, CAPTA, has required all states to pass laws making MRs immune from criminal prosecution for making a good faith report, and all 50 states, D.C., and U.S. territories have complied. However, MRs continue to face other severe retaliation, such as civil lawsuits, licensing board complaints, adverse employment actions, release of their name to the accused child abusers, and endless harassment from child abusers or their supporters.

This study demonstrated that retaliation for reporting is common (27% of professionals in the sample set reported experiencing retaliation) and also that MRs are less likely to agree to work with abused children or testify in child abuse cases if they have experienced previous retaliation, again making children less safe. **Further protections must be provided for MRs so they can engage in service to children without living in fear of harm.**

[Read More](#)



The Center for Child Policy Invited to Attend Legislative Project

In January, the Deputy Director of the Center for Child Policy, Pamela Miller, attended the ceremonial swearing-in of Greg Landsman (D-OH) to the U.S. House of Representatives. The newly elected Congressman previously served on Cincinnati City Council, after running as the "Children and Families Candidate" and is a long-time friend and colleague of Ms. Miller. He has a background as a public-school teacher and was the lead advocate and strategist in the Preschool Promise initiative (Cincinnati now pays for two years of quality preschool for any child in need).

The Center for Child Policy recently invited our friends at Child USA to work together on a legislative project for Landsman's office. Miller and Child USA Legal Director, Jessica Schidlow, Esq., MA, NCC will travel to Washington, D.C. to meet with Landsman and his staff at the end of February regarding Title IX protections for abused children in K-12 education.

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