

COUNTY CHILD DEATH REVIEW TEAM STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND CONFIDENTIALITY

For purposes of this review of death certificates, selected birth certificates and records prepared pursuant to the Child Protective Services Law, we are acting in accordance with the Pennsylvania Department of Health (Application for Access to Protected Data), and as an extension to the agreement between the Pennsylvania Departments of Health and Public Welfare and the Academy of Pediatrics, Pennsylvania Chapter. Therefore we must act in accordance with the obligations of the Application for Access to Protected Data, the Public health Child death Review Act and The Child Protective Services Law. It is intended that this Confidentiality Statement will serve the purposes of all agencies and organizations that have agreed to designate members for the work of this team.

PURPOSE

To examine circumstances surrounding deaths in this Commonwealth for the purpose of promoting safety and reducing child fatalities.

CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT

With this purpose in mind, I, the undersigned agree that all information secured in this review will remain and be kept strictly confidential and will not be used for reasons other than that which was intended and allowed by law. I, (print name) _____, of (agency name) _____, understand that all discussions of the County Child Death Review Team are confidential. I understand that all materials reviewed or obtained by me as a member of the County Child Death Review Team are confidential. There will be no followback to families or next of kin for purposes of this death review, and any discussion of team conclusions with people outside the team will be in the aggregate form only. Members of the County Child Death Review Team may only provide information in accordance with existing law and applicable regulations. No case illustrations of child deaths may be disclosed to the public without removal of any and all individually identifiable information that would or has potential to identify any individual. Investigation of cases by individual team members based on information obtained through the review is prohibited, except that a law enforcement team member may conduct a criminal investigation in the course of official law enforcement business if the information obtained by the officer raises questions of criminal conduct. If the team as a whole determines that a suspected case of child abuse or homicide may have occurred, a team member advocate designated by and acting on behalf of the team will refer the case to the appropriate legal authority. (ChildLine, as permitted under Section 6312, Child Protective Services Law, or the appropriate coroner as required under Section 6317 of the Child Protective Services Law). I, a member of the County Child Death Review Team, will store all materials with identifying information in a locked and secure setting, and will dispose of these materials by shredding or by confidential recycling when work on each case is complete.

Date: _____

Signature: _____

This is a document of the PA CDR program. Duplications acceptable but no alterations permitted.