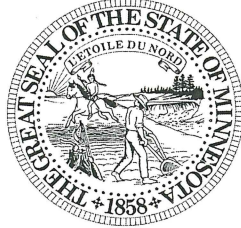


STATE OF MINNESOTA

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT



MARK DAYTON
GOVERNOR

Executive Order 14-15

Establishing the Governor's Task Force on the Protection of Children

I, Mark Dayton, Governor of the State of Minnesota, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and applicable statutes, do hereby issue this Executive Order:

Whereas, the protection of the children of the state of Minnesota is a top priority for law enforcement, human services providers, and citizens of this State; and

Whereas, recent cases have brought to the forefront of the State's collective conscious the maltreatment of children, and the need to review the standards of child protection at a state, county, and local level.

Now, Therefore, I hereby order that:

1. The Governor's Task Force on the Protection of Children is created to advise the Governor and Legislature on system and practice improvements in the child protection system at all levels of government within the State of Minnesota.
2. The Task Force will consist of members appointed by the Governor.
3. The purpose of the Task Force is to:
 - a. Review the current child welfare system to assess practices, especially at critical decision points, to ensure child safety.
 - b. Make initial recommendations on three areas:
 - i. Are pre-court protection protocols, including screening decisions and the family assessment process, adequate, and if so, are they being adhered to?
 - ii. Does the child protection system have the capacity and resources to address child maltreatment reports, and to serve families?
 - iii. Is there adequate supervisory oversight of local agency practices?

- c. In addition, the Task Force will address:
 - i. Screening decisions when children are reported to child protection;
 - ii. Training of staff, child welfare training system, and workforce development;
 - iii. Workload of staff and supervisors;
 - iv. Cross reporting to law enforcement;
 - v. State capacity to review county decisions/quality assurance;
 - vi. Handling of substantial child endangerment cases;
 - vii. Child protection protocols and adherence;
 - viii. Resources and funding; and
 - ix. Assessment of what Minnesota does well and where it needs to improve.
 - d. The Task Force will not examine court practices or procedures.
4. The Task Force will provide initial recommendations on the first three questions and convey its findings in a report to the Governor's Office, the Legislature, and the public by December 31, 2014, and final recommendations by March 31, 2015.
5. The Commissioner of the Department of Human Services will provide general administrative and technical support to the Task Force.
6. The Task Force will make its meetings open to the public and provide opportunities for public comment.

This Executive Order is effective fifteen days after publication in the State Register and filing with the Secretary of State, and shall remain in effect until rescinded by proper authority or until it expires in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 4.035, subdivision 3.

In Testimony Whereof, I have set my hand on this 22nd day of September, 2014.



Mark Dayton
Governor

Filed According to Law



Mark Ritchie
Secretary of State

