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Legal Report

SWAN Legal Services Initiative

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Pennsylvania Updates

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PENNSYLVANIA UPDATES

On October 25, 2021, The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services and the Office of Children, Youth, and Families issued [Bulletin 3490-21-04](#), “Changes to the Child Protective Services Law, 23 Pa.C.S.A. §6344, as it Pertains to Clearances.”

The purpose of this bulletin is to announce significant changes made to the Child Protective Services Law (CPSL) as it pertains to clearance and verification requirements.

Reminder

The Bulletin previously issued by The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services and the Office of Children, Youth and Families entitled [“Policies and Procedures for Implementation of the Title IV-E Prevention Program under the Family First Prevention Services Act”](#) went into effect on October 1, 2021.

The purpose of this bulletin is to inform county children and youth agencies (CCYAs) about new prevention services requirements for serving children and families as a result of the Family First Prevention Services Act.

Family First was enacted on February 9, 2018 and amended Titles IV-E and IV-B of the Social Security Act (the Act) by expanding funding and the availability of enhanced supports to eligible families and children. By re-aligning and expanding critical federal financial resources, Family First takes an unprecedented step towards providing resources for keeping families together, preventing child maltreatment, out-of-home placement, and the trauma of unnecessary parent-child separation as well as ensuring that children grow up in safe and loving families.