

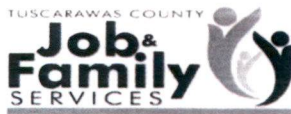
# TUSCARAWAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Mitch Pace – Greg Ress – Kristin Zemis

COMMISSIONER'S JOURNAL 91  
DECEMBER 22, 2025

## RESOLUTION (1112-2025) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT - JFS

It was moved by Commissioner Pace, seconded by Commissioner Ress, to approve the following child abuse and neglect memorandum of understanding requested by Job and Family Services and approved as to form by Kristine Beard, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney:



389 16<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
New Philadelphia, Ohio 44663  
Phone: 330-339-7791 or 800-431-2347  
Fax: 330-339-6388 TTY TDD: 1-800-750-0750  
[www.tcjfs.org](http://www.tcjfs.org)

December 16, 2025

Tuscarawas County Commissioners  
125 E High Ave  
New Philadelphia, Ohio 44663

Re: Tuscarawas County Child Abuse and Neglect Memorandum of Understanding

Dear County Commissioners,

Enclosed with this letter you will find a county child abuse and neglect memorandum of understanding with signatures from statutorily required partners. This memorandum must be adopted by a resolution of the board of county commissioners by the 31st day of December 2025.

This memorandum of understanding establishes the normal operating procedures for the county partners will use as part of their respective responsibilities in investigations of child abuse and neglect. The goals of this memorandum of understanding eliminates all unnecessary interviews of children who are the subject of reports of abuse or neglect and provide only one interview for a child who is the subject of a report of child abuse or neglect.

The memorandum of understanding includes the roles and responsibilities of handling emergency and non-emergency cases of abuse and neglect. It provides standards and procedures to be used when handling and coordinating investigations of abuse and neglect. This includes establishing the procedure for the interviewing methods used with the child, who interviews the child and where the interview takes place.

This current version of the memorandum of understanding also incorporates the use of Noah's Hope Child Advocacy Center during investigations of child abuse and neglect to align with the goal of reducing the amount of unnecessary child interviews. Confidential information that is gathered during an investigation may be disclosed to any federal, state, or local government entity that needs the information to carry out its responsibilities to protect children from child abuse or neglect.

A review of this memorandum of understanding will occur biennially to evaluate whether updates are necessary to the memorandum's terms and procedures.

Tuscarawas County Job and Family Services requests that this child abuse and neglect memorandum of understanding be reviewed by the County Commissioners in accordance with section 2151.4225 of the Revised Code to evaluate if the memorandum meets the requirements under sections 2151.4220 to 2151.4222 of the Revised code and move to adopt the memorandum.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nichole John".

Nichole John, Social Service Supervisor  
Protective Unit

TCJFS helps people achieve safety, security, and self-sufficiency.

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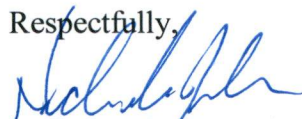
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Respectfully,



Nichole John, Social Service Supervisor  
Protective Unit

Ohio Department of Children and Youth  
**Tuscarawas County Job & Family Services**  
**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**TO ADDRESS CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT**

**I. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

This memorandum of understanding (hereinafter MOU) to address child abuse and neglect is required by sections 2151.4220, 2151.4221, 2151.4222, 2151.4223, 2151.4225, 2151.4226, 2151.4228, 2151.4229, 2151.4230, 2151.4231, 2151.4232, 2151.4233, and 2151.4234 of the Ohio Revised Code and rule 5180:3-1-26 of the Ohio Administrative Code. It is an agreement among **Tuscarawas County Job & Family Services** (hereinafter PCSA) and community partners that delineates roles and responsibilities for referring, reporting, investigating, and prosecuting child abuse and neglect cases within **Tuscarawas County** (hereinafter county). The MOU also identifies procedures for collaborative service provisions needed to ensure child safety, permanence, and well-being, and the minimum requirements of screening, assessment/investigation, and service planning, to meet mandates included in children services legislation passed by the 134<sup>th</sup> Ohio General Assembly. Two primary goals of this MOU are:

- The elimination of all unnecessary interviews of children who are the subject of reports of child abuse or neglect.
- When feasible, conducting only one interview of a child who is the subject of a report of child abuse or neglect.

Throughout the state each PCSA provides the following services to their communities:

**Screening:** The capacity to accept and screen referrals of suspected child abuse, neglect, and/or dependency includes but is not limited to the following: Receiving referrals 24 hours/day, 7 days/week; Recording and retaining referral information; Following Ohio's screening guidelines based on Ohio Administrative and Revised Code and categorizing the child maltreatment type; Adherence to a protocol for making screening and differential response pathway decisions regarding referrals of suspected child abuse, neglect, and/or dependency within 24 hours from the time of the referral; Documenting case decisions; And assigning a response priority of emergency or non-emergency to any screened in report.

**Assessment and Investigation:** The capacity to investigate and assess accepted reports of suspected child abuse, neglect, and/or dependency, includes responding to emergency reports within one (1) hour and non-emergency reports within twenty-four (24) hours; Conducting an initial Safety Assessment using a standardized CAPM (Comprehensive Assessment Planning Model) tool within the timeline prescribed in the Ohio Administrative Code; Completing a more in-depth CAPM Family Assessment including a clinical and actuarial risk assessment within sixty (60) days; Working collaboratively with other investigative agencies when appropriate; Making traditional response case dispositions within required



timeframes; Evaluating the need for protective, prevention, or supportive services and/or court involvement; and documenting all activities and case determinations.

**Service Provision:** The capacity to provide services that ameliorate, eliminate, or reduce future child maltreatment and the conditions which led to abuse, neglect, or dependency includes providing service planning and case management coordination; Identifying and stating the concern and behavior change(s) needed for reunification to occur through the use of the CAPM Family Case Plan; Monitoring the family's case progress, measuring service outcomes, re-assessing safety and risk, and evaluating permanency options by using the CAPM Case Review and Semi-Annual Review tools; And adhering to existing visitation, documentation, and case closure protocols.

## **II. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF EACH PARTICIPATING AGENCY**

### **A. CDJFS/PCSA (If a combined agency or stand-alone PCSA)**

The PCSA is the lead agency for the investigation of child abuse, neglect, or dependency in the county. The PCSA will coordinate and facilitate meetings, establish standards and protocol for joint assessment/investigation with law enforcement, cross-referrals, confidentiality, and training of signatories as required by statute. Child Protective Services staff and management will also participate in meetings and trainings as deemed appropriate at the discretion of the Director.

### **B. LAW ENFORCEMENT**

The county peace officer, each Chief of the local political subdivisions, and any other law enforcement officers handling child abuse and neglect cases in the county will have responsibility for: taking referrals/reports alleging child abuse and neglect from any source within their respective jurisdiction; Referring reports to the PCSA as soon as possible or within **twenty-four (24) hours** for investigation of the circumstances; Determining whether allegations of abuse or neglect rise to the level of criminal conduct; Cooperating with the PCSA in a joint and thorough investigation when the information contained in the report lends itself to allege a present danger; Assisting the PCSA in hazardous situations where the provision of protective services or the investigation of child abuse or neglect is impeded; Coordinating with the PCSA on interviews with principals of the case when there are serious criminal implications; Notifying the PCSA of any legal action involving an alleged perpetrator of child abuse or neglect; Responding to the PCSA's requests for information regarding the status of the legal action; Providing police record checks for the PCSA as necessary or requested as permitted by law; Consulting with the PCSA prior to removal of a child from their home when possible; Handling and coordinating investigations involving a child fatality or near fatality which may have resulted from abuse or neglect.

### **C. JUVENILE COURT**

The most senior Juvenile Judge in point of service of the county or their representative, selected by the Judge, if more than one, will be responsible for attending meetings concerning the MOU, entering into agreements with the other signatories of the MOU regarding the court's responsibility to timely hear and resolve child abuse, neglect, and dependency matters, signing the MOU, and updating the MOU or approving any amendment.

The juvenile court has a duty to exercise jurisdiction over adults and children to hear and decide matters as permitted by the Ohio Revised Code Chapters 2151 and 2152. The court is responsible for issuing orders regarding the care, protection, health, safety, mental and physical best interest of children. The Juvenile Judge will ensure that due process of law is achieved; Hear evidence and issue findings of fact and conclusions of law as to any abused, neglected, or dependent child; Order timely and safe permanency dispositions for children; Preserve the family environment whenever possible while keeping the child(ren)'s health and safety paramount.

#### **D. COUNTY PROSECUTOR**

The County Prosecutor will report suspected cases of child abuse and neglect to the PCSA or appropriate law enforcement agency. The County Prosecutor will represent the PCSA in legal actions to protect a child from further harm resulting from child abuse or neglect unless the Prosecutor has granted consent for the appointment of an In-house PCSA Attorney pursuant to Ohio Revised Code chapters 309 and 305.

The prosecuting attorney may inquire into the commission of crimes within the county. The prosecuting attorney will prosecute, on behalf of the state, all complaints, suits, and controversies in which the state is a party, except for those needing to be prosecuted by a special prosecutor or by the attorney general. The County Prosecutor is to determine, based upon the facts, whether criminal culpability exists and if enough evidence exists for a matter to be prosecuted. The prosecutor will be available to law enforcement and the PCSA staff for questions or assistance in the investigation of child abuse and neglect cases and eliminate the need for testimony at the municipal court level by allowing for direct presentation to the Grand Jury, when feasible, to minimize trauma to child victims. The prosecuting attorney agrees to aid the PCSA in protecting the confidential nature of children services records and investigations; As well as the special protection afforded to the identity of the reporting source.

#### **E. COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB & FAMILY SERVICES**

☒ Not Applicable *(if selected, this section is not relevant.)*

If the county's Department of Job and Family Services is a separate agency from the PCSA, employees within the county agency are expected to report suspected cases of child abuse and neglect to the PCSA or appropriate law enforcement agency upon receipt; Collaborate with the PCSA to assist families in caring for their children; Assure that children at risk of abuse and neglect

receive protective services; Assure service coordination for families already involved with the PCSA; Promote ongoing communication between the county's Department of Job and Family Services and the PCSA regarding mutual clients, including minors under the protective supervision or in the custody of the Agency and/or minor parents; Assist the PCSA upon request in obtaining case or assistance group information regarding a family when the PCSA is assessing Title IV-E eligibility or completing an assessment/investigation of a child at risk or alleged to be abused; Assist the PCSA in obtaining addresses and attempts to locate parents whose whereabouts are unknown, pursuant to OAC 5180:2-33-28; And where applicable and permitted assist the PCSA in locating suitable relatives or kin that may be available as familial support for the child(ren) or as a placement option.

**E. LOCAL ANIMAL CRUELTY REPORTING AGENCY**

The local animal cruelty reporting agencies are to investigate reports of animal abuse and neglect within the county and, pursuant to ORC 2151.421, report suspected cases of child abuse and neglect that may be observed during the commission of their duties to the PCSA or local law enforcement.

**G. CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER (Needs to be included if agreement with CDJFS/PCSA exists. Option to skip this section if your agency does not have a formal agreement with a children's advocacy center.)**

☐ Not Applicable (if selected, this section is not relevant.)

The Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) will establish internal protocols regarding the investigation of CAC cases, participate in training as needed, work jointly and cooperatively in their established role with the other team members in the investigation of CAC cases, and attend and exchange information when meeting with the PCSA, law enforcement, and other signatories of this agreement.

**H. CLERK OF COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT (Optional per statute, but benefits to inclusion should be considered per county. If the Clerk signs this MOU, the Clerk will execute all relevant responsibilities as required of officials specified in this MOU.)**

☒ Not Applicable (if selected, this section is not relevant.)

The Clerk of County Common Pleas Court will collaborate with the PCSA, County Prosecutor, and local law enforcement to establish standards and processes for the filing and acceptance of abuse, neglect, and dependency pleadings; Notice to the necessary parties; Service of process; How to send and receive communications from the Clerk; Defining acceptable methods of communication; Best practices for handling emergency/ex parte motions and orders which require the removal of children and need to be acted upon in an expeditious manner; Date and timestamp process and any cut-offs; Determine how and when to expect decisions or entries to be communicated; Provide periodic training for those involved in the investigation of child abuse and neglect

and the signatories of this MOU; Be available to the PCSA management staff or the Prosecutor should questions arise.

### **III. SCOPE OF WORK**

The key objective of this MOU is to clearly define the roles and responsibilities of each agency in the provision of child protective services.

#### **A. Mandated reporters and penalty for failure to report**

Persons identified as mandated reporters per Ohio Revised Code section 2151.421, while acting in official or professional capacity, will immediately report knowledge or reasonable cause to suspect the abuse or neglect of a child in accordance with that section. Reports will be made to the PCSA or a law enforcement officer.

The penalty for the failure of a mandated reporter to report any suspected case of child abuse and/or neglect pursuant to ORC section 2151.421 is a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. The penalty is a misdemeanor of the first degree if the child who is the subject of the required report that the offender fails to make suffers or faces the threat of suffering the physical or mental wound, injury, disability or condition that would be the basis of the required report when the child is under the direct care or supervision of the offender who is then acting in the offender's official or professional capacity or when the child is under the direct care or supervision of another person over whom the offender, while acting in the offender's official or professional capacity, has supervisory control. Failure to report suspected child abuse and/or neglect may also result in civil liability in the form of compensatory or exemplary damages.

**When any mandated reporter fails to report suspected child abuse or neglect as required by ORC 2151.421, Tuscarawas County Job and Family Services is required to give written notification to the County Prosecuting Attorney, the appropriate City Law Director, or Village Solicitor.**

#### **B. System for receiving reports**

Reports of child abuse or neglect will be made to the PCSA or any law enforcement officer with jurisdiction in the county. If the PCSA contracts with an outside source to receive after-hour calls, a copy of the signed agreement will be attached to this MOU which indicates that all reports with identifying and demographic information of the reporter and principals will be forwarded to a designated children services worker within an hour of receipt, confidentiality requirements will be met, and how the public is informed of after-hours reporting opportunities.

**Reports of suspected child abuse may be made to Tuscarawas County Job and Family Services at 389 16th Street SW New Philadelphia Ohio 44663, by phone (330) 556-6720, email [tusccps@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:tusccps@jfs.ohio.gov), or with**

**any law enforcement agency. Tuscarawas County Job and Family Services has staff available to receive reports by telephone 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The referant may contact Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Office, non-emergency phone line, (330) 339-2000 for any referrals after regular business hours, weekends, or holidays. An on-call caseworker and a supervisor are available during these times to respond to emergency situations. Law enforcement may access staff after business hours, weekends and holidays following the same procedure. The daily hours are posted on the Agency website at [tcjfs.org](http://tcjfs.org), on Facebook, published on all Agency literature, and in all advertisements.**

**When a law enforcement officer receives a report of possible abuse or neglect of a child or the possible threat of abuse or neglect of a child, the law enforcement officer will refer the report to the appropriate PCSA unless an arrest is made at the time of the report that results in the appropriate PCSA being contacted concerning the alleged incident involving the child.**

**When the PCSA screens in a report of child abuse, the PCSA will notify the appropriate law enforcement agency of the report, unless law enforcement is present and an arrest is made at the time of the report that results in the appropriate law enforcement agency being notified of the child abuse.**

**When the PCSA screens in a report of child neglect, and the PCSA implements a legally authorized out-of-home placement due to neglect within the first seven days of the assessment/investigation, the PCSA will notify the appropriate law enforcement agency within the first seven days of the assessment/investigation unless an arrest is made at the time of the report that results in the appropriate law enforcement agency being notified of the child neglect.**

### **C. Responding to mandated reporters**

**When the PCSA receives a referral from a mandated reporter who provides their name and contact information, the PCSA will forward an initial mandated reporter notification to the referent within seven days. The notification will be provided, in accordance with the mandated reporter's preference. Information shared with the mandated reporter will include the information permitted by ORC 2151.421(K):**

- Whether the agency or center has initiated an investigation of the report;**
- Whether the agency or center is continuing to investigate the report;**
- Whether the agency or center is otherwise involved with the child who is the subject of the report;**
- The general status of the health and safety of the child who is the subject of the report;**
- Whether the report has resulted in the filing of a complaint in juvenile court or of criminal charges in another court.**



When the PCSA closes an investigation/assessment reported by a mandated reporter, the PCSA will forward a mandated reporter referral outcome notification to the referent. The notification will be provided in accordance with the mandated reporter's preference. Information shared with the mandated reporter will be that permitted by ORC 2151.421 to include a notification that the agency has closed the investigation along with a point of contact.

**D. Roles and responsibilities for handling emergency cases of child abuse, neglect, and dependency**

**1. PCSA's Response Procedure**

When the PCSA determines that a report is emergent, the PCSA will attempt a face-to-face contact with the child subject of the report/alleged child victim within one hour of the receipt of the report.

If the PCSA identifies an active safety threat at any point during the assessment/investigation, the caseworker or supervisor will implement a safety response.

The Agency makes every attempt to prevent the removal of a child from his/her home by court order. The following are some options the caseworker would use to assure the safety of the child without removal, (1) removing the offender from the home by a Temporary Protection Order (TPO) or voluntary with a Safety Plan in place for the family (2) having the parents voluntarily place the child with an appropriate relative or third party (3) executing an Agreement for Temporary Custody of a Child (JFS 01645) in which parents agree that removing the child from the home is in his/her best interest. This requires the written approval of the Director or the Director's Designee and agreement of the Agency's in-house counsel (4) Developing a Safety Plan wherein the environment can be made safe immediately (5) Contacting appropriate service providers to immediately engage services and interventions that would alleviate the risk to the child. When parents do not agree to one of the above - listed options or the safety of the child cannot be assured, the decision regarding removal of the child from his/her home must be considered. The decision must be made in consultation with the worker, the supervisor, and in-house counsel.

**2. Law Enforcement and Noah's Hope Child Advocacy Center Response Procedure**

Law Enforcement will send notification of suspected child abuse or neglect to Tuscarawas County Job and Family Services to determine whether a referral to Noah's Hope Child Advocacy

Center is appropriate. Tuscarawas County Job and Family Services will notify Noah's Hope Child Advocacy Center and the appropriate law enforcement when a Child Advocacy Center interview is needed. Tuscarawas County Job and Family Services will follow the procedures outlined in the Tuscarawas County Child Advocacy Center, DBA Noah's Hope Interagency Agreement (2025). When Tuscarawas County Job and Family Services determines that a referral does not meet criteria for Agency services, but Law Enforcement is involved and the child will benefit from services provided by Noah's Hope Child Advocacy Center, the Agency will send a referral to Noah's Hope Child Advocacy Center and notify the law enforcement agency within 24 hours of the decision.

**3. Children in Need of Medical Attention Special Response Procedures**

When Tuscarawas County Job and Family Services is notified that a child has been seriously injured from abuse/neglect (i.e. shaken baby/sexual assault within the last 72 hours), the child must be taken to Akron Children's Hospital to be examined. If the alleged sexual assault occurred within the last 72 hours, Akron Children's Hospital will conduct a forensic interview with the child along with a SANE exam. If the child was seen at Akron Children's Hospital, but an examination was not completed and the child received a first responder interview, a forensic interview will be completed at Noah's Hope Child Advocacy Center if the Agency determines services are necessary.

**E. Standards and procedures to be used in handling and coordinating investigations of reported cases of child abuse and/or neglect**

Methods to be used in interviewing the child who is the subject of the report and who allegedly was abused and/or neglected, alleged perpetrators, and other family members and witnesses/collaterals will be discussed and agreed upon in advance by the PCSA and the corresponding law enforcement agency.

To the extent possible investigative interviews of children who are the alleged victims of reports of abuse and/or neglect where criminal activity is suspected, including reports of human trafficking, are cooperatively planned by the PCSA and the law enforcement agency of the jurisdiction.

Every effort will be made by the signatories of this MOU to prevent or reduce duplicate interviews of the victims or witnesses. When feasible, to reduce trauma complete only one interview with the alleged child victim/ child subject of the report. The PCSA agrees to be the lead agency in scheduling the time, place, and location of joint interviews as well as notifying all participants.

Before starting the interview, the participants will determine who is to be present in the room, who will be asking the questions, what areas are to be covered, and who will be the scribe for the interview. Audio and video recordings may be used when necessary.

When law enforcement or the prosecutor's office interviews a participant in a criminal investigation and a representative of the PCSA is not present, the interviews conducted by law enforcement or the prosecutor's office may be used by the PCSA to meet the agency investigative requirements set forth in rule. Law enforcement or the prosecutor's office will forward a written summary of the interview to the PCSA upon request.

The PCSA agrees not to proceed without the advice and consent of the prosecutor's office when a criminal investigation is being conducted concurrently. The PCSA will not jeopardize a criminal investigation but will work with law enforcement to protect the safety of the child victim or witnesses. Law enforcement will be the lead agency in the collection of forensic evidence and will coordinate with the necessary facilities to obtain and store such evidence properly.

The mission of the Noah's Hope Child Advocacy Center is to provide a specialized, comprehensive, multi-disciplined approach to child abuse from disclosure through treatment to reduce further trauma and promote recovery and resiliency for children and families.

The following MDT is assembled under R.C. 2151.427:

The Sheriff or his/her designee;

The investigating law enforcement officer;

The Director of Tuscarawas County Job and Family Services or his/her designee;

The CPS investigator;

The Prosecuting Attorney or his/her designee;

The Director of the ADAMHS Board or his/her designee;

The treating mental health professional (case specific);

The treating medical health professional (case specific);

A victim advocate from the Prosecutor's Office;

The director of the CAC; and

Others, identified as significant to a specific case (i.e.: probation workers, victim advocates, caseworkers, school personnel, etc.).

The MDT shall carry out the responsibilities of R.C. 2151.426 and 2151.427 and the procedures set forth herein.

The members of the MDT are committed to participating in case review at regularly scheduled meetings organized and presided over by the CAC director.

The PCSA will follow up with law enforcement to ensure timely assistance and to complete mandated assessment/investigation activities within the sixty-day timeframe.

**F. Standards and procedures addressing the categories of persons who may interview the child who is the subject of the report and who allegedly was abused or neglected**

The categories of personnel who may conduct interviews of children who are the subjects of reports of alleged abuse, neglect, and/or dependency are limited to the following:

- Casework and supervisory staff of the PCSA
- Law enforcement personnel
- County or city prosecuting attorneys, assistant prosecuting attorneys, in-house JFS legal counsel if applicable, and their investigative staff
- **Noah's Hope Child Advocacy Center director and certified forensic interviewers**
- 

**G. Standards and procedures for PCSA requests for law enforcement assistance**

The PCSA may request the assistance of law enforcement during an assessment/investigation if one or more of the following situations exist:

- An exigent circumstance.
- The PCSA has reason to believe that the child is in immediate danger of serious harm.
- The PCSA has reason to believe that the worker is, or will be, in danger of harm.
- The PCSA has reason to believe that a crime is being committed, or has been committed, against a child.
- The PCSA worker needs to conduct a home visit after regular PCSA business hours, and a law enforcement escort is requested as a standard operating procedure.
- The PCSA is removing a child from his or her family via an order of the court, and the assistance of law enforcement is needed as the PCSA has reason to believe the family will challenge the removal.
- The PCSA is working with a client who has a propensity toward violence, and the assistance of law enforcement is needed to ensure the safety of all involved.
- The PCSA is working with a family that has historically threatened to do harm to PCSA staff.

**When criminal activity is suspected, interviews with the alleged child victim should be in the least stressful, safest environment possible and when available conducted at Noah's Hope Child Advocacy Center. In the event a child is not able to be interviewed at Noah's Hope Child Advocacy Center during a joint investigation, the alleged child victim will be interviewed by the Child Protective Service worker and law enforcement with the CPS worker being the lead questioner.**

**In joint investigations, the Tuscarawas County Job and Family Services and law enforcement agencies will share immediately all statements, reports, and verbal and written opinions concerning the abusive or neglectful situations.**

#### **H. Specialized Investigations or Circumstances**

**To the extent possible, investigative interviews of children who are the alleged child victims/child subjects of the report of abuse and neglect where criminal activity is suspected, including reports of human trafficking, physical and sexual abuse, domestic violence, child endangering, or the like, are cooperatively planned by the PCSA and the law enforcement agency of jurisdiction.**

##### **1. Out-of-Home Care**

**The PCSA conducts an out-of-home care investigation in response to a child abuse or neglect report that includes an alleged perpetrator who meets one or more of the following criteria:**

- Is a person responsible for the alleged child victim's care in an out-of-home care setting as defined in rule 5180:2-1-01 of the Administrative Code.**
- Is a person responsible for the alleged child victim's care in out-of-home care as defined in section 2151.011 of the Revised Code.**
- Has access to the alleged child victim by virtue of their employment by or affiliation to an organization as defined in section 2151.011 of the Revised Code.**
- Has access to the alleged child victim through placement in an out-of-home care setting.**

**The PCSA follows the procedures for conducting out-of-home care investigations as described in section 5180:2-36-04 of the OAC.**

**A caseworker investigating a report of suspected child abuse and neglect shall immediately notify the appropriate law enforcement agency when an out-of-home investigation is required. Tuscarawas County Job and Family Services has the responsibility of conducting a legally sound and effective investigation. It is also their responsibility to coordinate the**



investigation with the local law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction over the case. Both professional departments must decide how to intervene in a fashion that will maximize the information obtained from the investigation while minimizing the risk of trauma to the alleged child victim and/or family members. It is important to remember that every investigation is stressful for a child and a family, but that it does not have to be traumatic.

When agreeable to both law enforcement and Tuscarawas County Job and Family Services, investigative interview of children who are the subject of reports of abuse and neglect where criminal activity is suspected will be jointly planned and conducted by Tuscarawas County Job and Family Services and the respective law enforcement agency at the Noah's Hope Child Advocacy Center. Tuscarawas County Job and Family Services will work jointly with law enforcement to ensure that an alleged child victim's safety is secured; mandates are met; and without interfering with the criminal investigation.

If law enforcement declines to assist in an out-of-home care investigation, the caseworker will proceed with the investigation in accordance with section 5180:2-36-04 of the OAC.

## **2. Third-Party Investigations**

In accordance with section 5180:2-36-08 of the OAC, the PCSA is to request a third-party in the assessment/investigation for reports of child abuse or neglect where there is potential for a conflict of interest because one of the following parties is a principal of the report:

- Any employee of an organization or facility that is licensed or certified by the Ohio Department of Children and Youth (DCY) or another state agency and supervised by the PCSA.
- A foster caregiver, pre-finalized adoptive parent, adoptive parent, relative, or kinship caregiver who is recommended, approved, or supervised by the PCSA.
- A type B family childcare home or type A family childcare home licensed by DCY when the CDJFS has assumed the powers and duties of the county children services function defined in Chapter 5153. of the Revised Code.
- Any employee or agent of DCY or the PCSA as defined in Chapter 5153. of the Revised Code.
- Any authorized person representing DCY or the PCSA who provides services for payment or as a volunteer.
- A foster caregiver or an employee of an organization or facility licensed or certified by DCY and the alleged child victim is in the custody of, or receiving services from, the PCSA that accepted the report.

- Any time a PCSA determines that a conflict of interest exists. The PCSA is to document in the case record if a conflict of interest is identified.

The PCSA is to request that law enforcement serve as the third party when a report alleges a criminal offense. The PCSA is to request the assistance of a third party within 24 hours of identifying that a conflict of interest exists.

The interviews with alleged offenders will be conducted by both law enforcement and a Children Services worker, when possible. Law enforcement is typically in charge of this interview due to their specialized training and legal connection to the court system. Interviews with the alleged offender should maximize the element of surprise and are generally conducted in a law enforcement setting. Interviews should never be knowingly done at the Advocacy Center. The purpose of the interview is to gather information regarding the alleged abuse, assess the danger to which the alleged offender is a risk to the child, and to persuade the offender to cooperate with a plan to ensure the safety of the child.

In the event law enforcement declines to participate, TCJFS will contact alternate law enforcement agency, in-house legal counsel, or DCY for guidance.

### **3. Child Fatality- Suspected cause of death is abuse or neglect**

The PCSA is governed by ORC section 307.622 and needs to have a child fatality review board.

Law Enforcement should notify Children Services immediately when it is suspected that the death of a child was caused by abuse or neglect. Children Services will conduct a records check for any current or previous involvement with the family. Law Enforcement and Children Services may collaborate in the investigation. Both Law Enforcement and Children Services may be involved in interviewing parents, guardians, custodians, other children in the home, witnesses, and other professionals involved in the case. Copies of all records (Law Enforcement, Children Services, Medical, Coroner, etc.) may be shared by Law Enforcement and Children Services.

Law Enforcement can be the lead agency in conducting interviews with the alleged perpetrators. Law Enforcement can determine when the case is ready to be sent to the Prosecutor.

### **4. Child Fatality- Death of a child in the custody of the PCSA**

The PCSA follows rules 5180:2-33-14 and 5180:2-42-89 of the OAC following the death of a child in its custody.

**If a child in the temporary custody or a planned permanent living arrangement of Tuscarawas County Job and Family Services dies. TCJFS will: Notify the law enforcement agency with jurisdiction within one hour of its knowledge of the child's death. Contact the parent, guardian, or custodian within one hour of its knowledge of the child's death. Complete the JFS 01987 Child Fatality Report Face Sheet and send it to the ODJFS within five (5) working days after receiving the report. This report shall be sent electronically. Notify the local department and/or the child fatality review board. Assist the family in planning funeral arrangements, if requested.**

**If a child in the permanent custody of TCJFS dies, TCJFS will: Notify the law enforcement agency with jurisdiction within one hour of its knowledge of the child's death. Determine whether the notification of the parent, guardian, custodian, or other relatives is appropriate. Complete the JFS 01987 and send it to ODJFS as described above. Notify the local health department and/or the child fatality review board. Assume responsibility for funeral arrangements.**

**If the death of a child is the result of suspected child abuse or neglect, TCJFS will: Follow investigative procedures set forth for Out-of-Home Care Child Abuse or Neglect procedures and Third Party Investigative Procedures when: Suspected child abuse and neglect as determined by law enforcement, medical or TCJFS personnel. Prior involvement with TCJFS or any member of the household including: open in-home voluntary cases, open court ordered protective supervision, open intake assessments within twelve months of the fatality, a closed, inactive case within twelve months of the fatality.**

**5. Allegations of withholding medically indicated treatment from disabled infants with life-threatening conditions**

The PCSA follows the procedures described in section 5180:2-36-07 of the OAC for responding to these reports.

The withholding of medically indicated treatment is the refusal to provide appropriate nutrition, hydration, medication, or other medically indicated treatment from a disabled infant with a life-threatening condition.

Medically indicated treatment includes the medical care most likely to relieve, or correct, the life-threatening condition. Nutrition, hydration, and medication, as appropriate for the infant's needs, are medically indicated for all disabled infants; in addition to, the completion of

appropriate evaluations or consultations necessary to assure that sufficient information has been gathered to make informed medical decisions on behalf of the disabled infant.

In determining whether treatment is medically indicated, reasonable medical judgments made by a prudent physician, or treatment team, knowledgeable about the case and its treatment possibilities are considered. The opinions about the infant's future "quality of life" are not to bear on whether a treatment is judged to be medically indicated. Medically indicated treatment does not include the failure to provide treatment to a disabled infant if the treating physician's medical judgment identifies any of the situations listed in OAC section 5180:2-36-07(A)(3)(a-d).

**Tuscarawas County Job and Family Services will do the following:**

- **Gather and maintain current information regarding the name, address, and telephone number of each appropriate health care facility within its jurisdiction.**
  - **Identify and maintain the current name, title, and telephone number of each facility's contact person for allegations involving withholding of medically indicated treatment from disabled infants with life-threatening conditions.**
- **Identify and maintain the name and chairperson of the appropriate health care facility's review committee, if such a committee exists.**
- **Complete face-to-face or telephone contact with the health care facility's administrator, or designee, within one hour from the time the referral was screened in as a report.**
- **Obtain the following information from the health care facility's administrator, or designee, regarding the current condition of the disabled infant, including but not limited to: The physical location of the disabled infant within the hospital; age, diagnoses or diagnosis and the prognosis; problem requiring treatment; immediate actions necessary to keep the disabled infant alive; whether or not the withholding of life-sustaining treatment has been recommended; whether or not the withholding of life-sustaining treatment has been implemented; whether or not the parent, guardian, or custodian has refused to consent to life-sustaining treatment; whether or not the hospital chose to sustain life-supporting care for the immediate future, preceding 96 hours from the date and time the PCSA initiated the report, while the assessment/investigation is underway; whether or**

not sustenance or medication is being denied. TCJFS shall involve a qualified medical consultant within twenty-four hours from the time the referral was screened in as a report to assist in the evaluation of the disabled infant's medical information, including medical records, obtained during the preliminary medical assessment.

- If TCJFS determines the child to be in immediate danger of serious harm, TCJFS shall follow procedures outlined in O.A.C. rule 5180:2-36-07.
- TCJFS shall pursue any legal remedies, including the initiation of legal proceedings in a court of competent jurisdiction to provide medical care or treatment for a child when such care or treatment is necessary to prevent or remedy serious harm to the child or to prevent the withholding of medically indicated treatment from a disabled infant with a life-threatening condition.
- TCJFS shall attempt a face-to-face contact in order to conduct an interview with the alleged child victim's parent, guardian, or custodian no later than twenty-four hours from the time the referral was screened in as a report.
- TCJFS shall, in cooperation with the medical consultant, conduct and document interviews with the attending physician and the health care facility's staff. The purpose of the interviews is to: determine the measures that the health care facility staff attending to the disabled infant has taken to provide medically indicated treatment to the disabled infant; determine whether or not the disabled infant's attending physician with the consent of the disabled infant's parent, guardian, or custodian will sustain needed life-supporting care for twenty-four hours while TCJFS continues the assessment/investigation; Determine if any of the following conditions of and risk to the disabled infant were concluded by the attending physician's and/or staff's assessment (The disabled infant is chronically and irreversibly comatose; the provision of medical treatment would merely prolong dying, not be effective in ameliorating or correcting all of the disabled infant's life-threatening conditions, or otherwise be futile in terms of the survival of the disabled infant; the provision of medical treatment would be virtually futile in terms of the survival of the disabled infant and the treatment itself under such circumstances would be inhumane); Verify if plans have been made to convene a meeting of the health care facility review committee or to adopt the recommendations of the appropriate health care facility review committee, and the meeting has been held; Confirm the disabled infant's age; Confirm the disabled infant's diagnoses or diagnosis; Determine if the withholding of life-sustaining treatment has been recommended; Determine if the withholding of life-sustaining treatment has been implemented (Identify the treatment necessary for the disabled infant's life or health that is being denied; Determine if sustenance or medication is being denied.); Determine if the parent, guardian, or custodian refused to consent to life-sustaining treatment; Determine if the hospital will sustain life-supporting care for the immediate future while TCJFS's



assessment/investigation is conducted, if applicable; Identify the treatment or sustenance being provided to the disabled infant, if applicable; Determine if there is consensus regarding the medical diagnoses among the treatment team; Document and identify if there were/have been any differing opinions among the treatment team; Document the names of all medical consultants involved including their qualifications/credentials; Determine which members of the treatment team discussed the case with the parent, guardian, or custodian; Determine if a hospital review process has occurred and document the review process and recommendations if applicable.

- TCJFS shall conduct and document all face-to-face interviews with the alleged perpetrator, unless law enforcement or the county prosecutor or medical consultant will interview the alleged perpetrator pursuant to the procedures delineated in the county child abuse and neglect memorandum of understanding, in order to assess his/her knowledge of the allegation.
- TCJFS shall advise the alleged perpetrator of the allegations made against him/her at the time of initial contact. The initial contact between TCJFS and the alleged perpetrator of the report includes the first face-to-face or telephone contact, whichever occurs first, if information is gathered as part of the assessment/investigation process.
- TCJFS shall conduct and document face-to-face or telephone interviews with any person identified as a possible source of information during the assessment/investigation to obtain relevant information regarding the safety of and risk to the child (TCJFS shall exercise discretion in the selection of collateral sources to protect the family or out-of-home care setting's right to privacy, TCJFS shall protect the confidentiality of the principles, people shall not be randomly interviewed, TCJFS shall conduct interviews of additional staff that may have information relevant to the investigation).
- TCJFS shall complete the report disposition and arrive at a final case decision by completing the Family Assessment tool in Ohio SACWIS no later than sixty days from the date TCJFS screened in the referral as a child abuse and/or neglect report.
- TCJFS shall not waive the completion of the report disposition.
- TCJFS shall have an interpreter present for all interviews if TCJFS has determined that a principal of the report has a language or any other impairment that causes a barrier in communication, including but not limited to a principal of the report who is deaf or hearing impaired, limited English proficiency or is developmentally delayed.
- TCJFS shall notify the alleged perpetrator in writing of the report disposition and the right to appeal the disposition within two working days of completion of the assessment/investigation.
- TCJFS shall notify the the alleged child victim's parent, guardian, or custodian in writing of the report disposition and case decision within two working days.
- No later than three working days from the date of the completion of the report disposition, TCJFS shall provide written notification of the

report disposition to the following entities, as applicable, in accordance with rules 5180:2-33-21 and 5180:2-36-12 of the Administrative Code (Administrator, director, or other chief administrator of the health care facility, the owner or governing board of the health care facility, the appropriate licensing and supervising authorities of the health care facility).

- TCJFS shall notify law enforcement if it is determined that the attending physician failed to provide medically indicated treatment or failed to inform the alleged child victim's parent, guardian, or custodian of the available treatment options.
- No later than fifteen calendar days from the completion date of the report disposition and case decision, TCJFS shall notify the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) that a neglect report involving a disabled infant was assessed/investigated. The notification shall include the intake identification number established within the Ohio Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (Ohio SACWIS).
- TCJFS shall maintain all materials obtained as a result of the assessment/investigation in the case record.

**6. Allegations of child abuse and/or neglect constituting a crime against a child, including human trafficking, and needing a joint assessment/investigation with law enforcement**

TCJFS will follow procedures for handling and coordinating joint investigations. TCJFS will make every effort to ensure child safety and utilize Noah's Hope Child Advocacy Center for interviews with the child victim. Law enforcement will take the lead on the Alleged Perpetrator interview. Records of the investigation will be shared between the investigating agencies and/or MDT.

**7. Reports of cases involving individuals who aid, abet, induce, cause, encourage, or contribute to a child or a ward of the juvenile court becoming dependent, neglected, unruly, and/or delinquent**

TCJFS will follow screening guidelines. TCJFS will refer to in-house counsel and/or the local Law Enforcement of Jurisdiction.

**8. Reports involving individuals who aid, abet, induce, cause, encourage, or contribute to a child or a ward of the juvenile court leaving the custody of any person, department, or public or private institution without the legal consent of that person, department, or institution**

TCJFS will follow screening guidelines. TCJFS will refer to in-house counsel and/or the local Law Enforcement of Jurisdiction.

## **9. Receiving and responding to reports of missing children involved with the PCSA**

Upon learning that a minor child has either run away from or is otherwise missing from the home or the care, custody, and control of the child's parents, custodial parent, legal guardian, or non-custodial parent, the following actions will take place:

- When an MOU signatory agency is made aware that a child is missing, they will coordinate with the custodian to report their concerns to the law enforcement agency in the appropriate jurisdiction.
- The law enforcement agency will enter known information into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database if the child is in PCSA custody.
- The law enforcement agency will take prompt action upon the report, including, but not limited to, concerted efforts to locate the missing child.
- The law enforcement agency will promptly enter any additional, relevant information into NCIC.
- The law enforcement agency will promptly notify the missing child's parents, parent who is the residential parent and legal custodian, guardian, or legal custodian, or any other person responsible for the care of the missing child, that the child's information was entered into NCIC.
- The PCSA will contact the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) if the child is in PCSA custody.

Upon request of law enforcement, the PCSA is to provide assistance and cooperation in the investigation of a missing child; including the immediate provision of any information possessed by the PCSA that may be relevant in the investigation.

All MOU signatory agencies are to notify the PCSA upon learning that a minor child who is alleged to be in the children services system or who is known or suspected to be abused or neglected has either run away from or is otherwise missing from the home or the care, custody, and control of the child's parents, custodial parent, legal guardian, or non-custodial parent.

## **I. Standards and procedures for removing and placing children**

## **1. Emergency**

Emergency removal of a child from home is necessary when the child is at imminent risk of harm and in need of protection from abuse, neglect, or dependency.

An ex parte order may be issued with or without a complaint being filed. Prior to taking the child into custody the judicial fact finder is to make a determination that reasonable efforts were made to notify the child's parents, guardian, or custodian, or there were reasonable grounds to believe doing so would jeopardize the safety of the child, or lead to the removal of the child from the jurisdiction.

Juv. R 6 orders can be issued in-person, by phone, video conference, or otherwise. Reasonable grounds need to exist to believe the child's removal is necessary to prevent immediate or threatened physical or emotional harm.

Findings need to be made that the agency either did or did not make reasonable efforts to prevent the removal of the child from their home with a brief description of services provided and why those did not prevent the removal or allow the child to return home, and if temporary custody is granted to the PCSA an additional finding that it would be contrary to the welfare and best interest of the child to continue in the home. If granted, a shelter care hearing is to be scheduled the next business day (but not later than seventy-two hours) after the emergency order has been issued. If the ex parte motion is denied, the matter is to be set for a shelter care hearing within ten days from the filing date.

**When Tuscarawas County Job and Family Services determines that emergency circumstances exist and the removal of a child(ren) is necessary, the agency worker will follow the procedure outlined in the Tuscarawas County Job and Family Service policy Procedure for Removal of a Child from the Home (800.08).**

## **2. Non-emergency**

Upon receiving a report alleging child abuse, neglect, and/or dependency, the PCSA commences an investigation in accordance with the requirements of section 2151.421 of the ORC. If the final case decision rises to the level of court involvement, the PCSA is to approach the juvenile court and file a complaint alleging the child(ren) to be abused, neglected, or dependent per ORC 2151.27. The matter will be set for a shelter care/preliminary protective hearing expeditiously by the juvenile court.

Reasonable oral or written notice of the time, place, and purpose of the hearing are to be provided to the parents, guardian, or custodian unless

they cannot be found. The same parties are also entitled to notification that a case plan may be prepared, the general requirements, and possible consequences of non-compliance with the case plan.

The parties will be served with the complaint and summons to appear before the juvenile court. Unrepresented parties are advised by the juvenile court of their right to counsel. Counsel is appointed for children when abuse is alleged. A guardian ad litem is appointed to all children subjects of abuse, neglect, or dependency proceedings. A separate guardian ad litem may be appointed to minor parents or parents who appear mentally incompetent.

The judicial fact finder is to determine whether there is probable cause that the child is abused, neglected, or dependent, the child is in need of protection, whether or not there is an appropriate relative or kin willing to assume temporary custody of the child, reasonable efforts were made by the PCSA to prevent the removal or continued removal or to make it possible for the child to return home safely, and for temporary custody orders to the PCSA that it would be contrary to the welfare and best interest of the child to continue in the home. All other temporary orders should be requested and considered at this time.

**Refer to Tuscarawas County Job and Family Service policy Procedure for Removal of a Child from the Home (800.08).**

**J. Disaster Plan**

☐ Not Applicable *(if selected this section is not relevant.)*

**In the event of a disaster, Tuscarawas County Job and Family Services will follow procedures outlined in the Tuscarawas County Job and Family Services Disaster Plan. The Tuscarawas County Job and Family Services Director and managers will provide information as soon as possible when a situation occurs using the emergency phone call list (if possible). Notifications will also be made to the local news, radio, Ohio ODJFS. If the phone system is inoperable, child abuse and adult abuse reports should be reported to the Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Office at 330-339-2000. They will notify the on-call agency worker.**

**Standards and Procedures for a Deserted Child/Safe Haven**

**TCJFS will follow the rules and procedures for a deserted child/safe haven as outlined in rule 5180:2-36-06 of the OAC.**

**IV. TRAINING**

**Cross system training is to be provided to and a plan developed by all signatories of this MOU to ensure parties understand the mission and goals identified in this MOU and are clear about the roles and responsibilities of each agency. Periodic trainings events will be coordinated by the PCSA as the lead agency and**



notification of the trainings will be provided to the signatories of this agreement. By agreeing to participate in the county MOU process signatories express a commitment to attend training opportunities when presented.

**A training will be scheduled upon request of any participating member.**

**V. CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

☐ Not Applicable *(if selected this section is not relevant.)*

When a conflict occurs among county partners, the effect is often broader than the individuals directly involved in the dispute. As disputes are often inevitable, this MOU is to set forth the local process by which disputes will be resolved so as not to disrupt program effectiveness.

As the mandated agency responsible for the provisions of child protective services, the ultimate decision on how to handle abuse, neglect investigations lie with the PCSA. Every effort will be made to take into account other signatories' requests and concerns relating to services.

Criminal investigations and prosecution remain the responsibility of the prosecuting attorney and appropriate law enforcement agencies. The PCSA will assist these agencies, but in no way, interfere or jeopardize a criminal investigation or prosecution.

For cases that come before the court as it relates to decisions and orders, the Juvenile Judge's rulings are final.

Each agency will make a concerted effort to help the other with joint interviews, investigations, evidence collection, information sharing, and fact-finding. Each agency will not hinder or interfere with the express duties of another and will do their best to cooperate and collaborate with the other county partners.

In the event internal conflict resolution efforts fail and a statutorily required participant refuses to sign or engage in the MOU process, the PCSA is to consult with the County Prosecutor to explore available remedies.

**VI. CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT**

Any report made in accordance with ORC section 2151.421 is confidential. Both the information and the name of the person who made the report under section 2151.421 will not be released to the public for use and will not be used as evidence in any civil action or proceeding brought against the person who made the report.

Children services records are not public records and are exempt from Ohio's Sunshine Laws under ORC 149.43. Children Services records are confidential in nature and should be treated accordingly.

ORC section 2151.423 requires the PCSA to disclose confidential information discovered during an investigation conducted pursuant to section 2151.421 or 2151.422 of the Ohio Revised Code to any federal, state, or local government entity, including any appropriate military authority or any agency providing prevention services, that needs the information to carry out its responsibilities to protect children from abuse or neglect. Likewise, law enforcement, **Noah's Hope Child Advocacy Center**, and other entities are expected to release information to the PCSA for the purpose of carrying out its responsibility of protecting children from abuse and/or neglect.

**Law enforcement shall share all relevant information including, but not limited to police reports, body cam footage, jail calls, photos, and interview transcripts.**

**TCJFS shall share all relevant information as permitted by the ORC and OAC.**

**The information received in a report of alleged child abuse or neglect is highly sensitive and should be maintained in confidence. When any person commits, causes, permits or encourages the unauthorized dissemination of information, Tuscarawas County Job and Family Services shall give written notification of such unauthorized dissemination to the Tuscarawas County Prosecuting Attorney. The reporter's identity is confidential and cannot be confirmed or denied.**

**The confidentiality provisions of this MOU will survive the expiration or termination of this agreement.**

**Information regarding the report and/or investigation of alleged abuse or neglect may be shared only when dissemination is authorized by OAC section 5180:2-33-21 and in accordance with the procedures outlined in OAC section 5180:2-33-21. The unauthorized dissemination of confidential information is a misdemeanor and is punishable by law.**

**In the event of unauthorized dissemination of information, the party who learns of the breach of confidentiality will notify the Director of the PCSA as soon as possible. The notification will be sent to the Director in writing describing the circumstances surrounding the breach. The notification will specify the confidential information released, who is responsible for disseminating the confidential information, how it was disseminated, and the parties who have access to the information without authorization. The Director of the PCSA will then refer this information to the prosecutor or city director of law at their discretion.**

## **VII. TERMS AND CONDITIONS AND STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS**

**This MOU is to be retained for a period of at least seven years per the state of Ohio records retention schedule. Please refer to the PCSA records retention policy for information on forms to be completed and processes to be followed for the destruction of records.**

Consultation among the signatories may be done in person, whenever practicable. When an in-person meeting is not practicable the signer may employ the use of alternative methods of communication including but not limited to MS Teams, Skype, Zoom, or telephone as agreed upon by all members. When the PCSA is seeking consultation with a signer of this MOU regarding an active referral of child abuse and/or neglect and has met in person or spoken with another signer, the PCSA will make written contact with the appropriate agency by the next working day to request the needed information and make the referral in writing.

The required members are to review and evaluate the terms and conditions of the MOU every biennium. All required members to the MOU will sign the new or updated agreement. The PCSA is to submit the MOU to the Board of County Commissioners for review and approval with enough time for any revisions to be made prior to December thirty-first of the year.

This MOU does not inhibit good faith compliance with a subpoena issued by a Grand Jury or in a criminal case. Dissemination of records pursuant to the State's discovery obligations is authorized. However, work product and other privileges are expected to be upheld.

Failure to follow the procedure set forth in the MOU by the concerned officials is not grounds for, and will not result in, the dismissal of any charges or complaint arising from any reported case of abuse or neglect or the suppression of any evidence obtained as a result of reported child abuse or child neglect and does not give, and will not be construed as giving, any rights or any grounds for appeal or post-conviction relief to any person pursuant to section 2151.4223 of the Revised Code.

This MOU will be governed by and construed in accordance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations. Any identified or listed citations to Ohio Administrative Code revised during the implementation of this MOU are to defer to the current finalized codification. In the event any other portion of this MOU is inconsistent with state or federal law, that portion will be without effect as if stricken from the document and the remaining portion will remain in full force and effect.

#### **VIII. SIGNATURES OF EACH PARTICIPATING AGENCY**

The signature section authorizes the participating parties of the agreement to begin enactment of MOU protocols and activities. The participating members agree to follow the terms of this MOU and to meet at minimum once every biennium to review terms and conditions, evaluate if updates are needed, and sign a new or amended MOU. The terms and conditions of the MOU will be reviewed every other year by all participating members. The next review will take place in 2027 and every other year thereafter.

If any individual serving as a signatory changes mid-term, the PCSA is to provide the new required member with the current MOU. The new member remains bound by the most recently approved version of the MOU. Their signature is to be obtained.

If the PCSA participated in the execution of a memorandum under section 2151.426 of the Revised Code establishing a CAC, each participating member of the CAC is a required signatory on this MOU.

A required member to this agreement may terminate their involvement in the MOU for good cause upon giving reasonable written notice to the other required members in this MOU.

**Tuscarawas County Job and Family Services will initiate and address any requested and/or required modifications to the agreement with all parties on an as needed basis.**

**A required member to this agreement will notify the Tuscarawas County Job and Family Services Director in writing thirty (30) days in advance if they plan to terminate their involvement in the MOU and the reason(s) why.**

The MOU may be signed in person or electronically.

Dennis Moody

Dennis Moody (Dec 16, 2025 10:58:57 EST)

Gnadenhutten Police Department - Chief Dennis Moody

Is this agency a participating member of the CAC referenced in Section II(G)?

12/16/2025

Date

☒ Yes ☐ No

Chad Hilty

Chad Hilty (Nov 14, 2025 11:16:07 EST)

Bolivar Police Department - Chief Chad Hilty

Is this agency a participating member of the CAC referenced in Section II(G)?

Date

☒ Yes ☐ No

11/14/2025

Kevin Kaser

Kevin Kaser (Nov 21, 2025 13:04:48 EST)

Sugarcreek Police Department - Chief Kevin Kaser

Is this agency a participating member of the CAC referenced in Section II(G)?

Date

☐ Yes ☐ No

11/21/2025

Jim Goodall

Jim Goodall (Dec 16, 2025 14:09:12 EST)

Village of Tuscarawas Police Department - Chief Jim Goodall

Is this agency a participating member of the CAC referenced in Section II(G)?

Date

☐ Yes ☐ No

12/16/2025

~~Reeswell Police Department - Chief Nicholas Abramson~~

Is this agency a participating member of the CAC referenced in Section II(G)?

Date

☐ Yes ☐ No

Paul Bantum

Paul Bantum (Nov 21, 2025 12:04:05 EST)

Dover Police Department - Chief Paul Bantum

Is this agency a participating member of the CAC referenced in Section II(G)?

Date

☒ Yes ☐ No

11/21/2025

Port Washington Police Department - Chief Rocky Dusenberry

Is this agency a participating member of the CAC referenced in Section II(G)?

Date

☐ Yes ☐ No

Vince Beal

Vince Beal (Dec 16, 2025 12:01:00 EST)

Uhrichsville Police Department - Chief Vince Beal

Is this agency a participating member of the CAC referenced in Section II(G)?

Date

☒ Yes ☐ No

12/16/2025

Brian Anderson

Brian Anderson (Dec 16, 2025 13:13:31 EST)

Midvale Police Department - Chief Brian Anderson

Is this agency a participating member of the CAC referenced in Section II(G)?

Date

☒ Yes ☐ No

12/16/2025

Craig Kennedy

Craig Kennedy (Nov 7, 2025 11:05:14 EST)

Newcomerstown Police Department - Chief Craig Kennedy

Is this agency a participating member of the CAC referenced in Section II(G)?

Date

☐ Yes ☐ No

11/07/2025

Todd Beeman

Todd Beeman (Nov 10, 2025 08:19:54 EST)

Dennison Police Department - Chief Todd Beeman

Is this agency a participating member of the CAC referenced in Section II(G)?

Date

☐ Yes ☐ No

11/10/2025

Orvis Campbell

Orvis Campbell (Nov 28, 2025 11:28:22 EST)

Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Office - Sheriff Orvis Campbell

Is this agency a participating member of the CAC referenced in Section II(G)?

Date

☐ Yes ☐ No

11/28/2025



Gnadenhutten Police Department - Chief Dennis Moody

Is this agency a participating member of the CAC referenced in Section II(G)?

Date

☐ Yes ☐ No

Chad Hilty

Chad Hilty (Nov 14, 2025 11:16:07 EST)

11/14/2025

Bolivar Police Department - Chief Chad Hilty

Is this agency a participating member of the CAC referenced in Section II(G)?

Date

☒ Yes ☐ No

Kevin Kaser

Kevin Kaser (Nov 21, 2025 13:04:48 EST)

11/21/2025

Sugarcreek Police Department - Chief Kevin Kaser

Is this agency a participating member of the CAC referenced in Section II(G)?

Date

☐ Yes ☐ No

Village of Tuscarawas Police Department - Chief Jim Goodall

Is this agency a participating member of the CAC referenced in Section II(G)?

Date

☐ Yes ☐ No

~~Roswell Police Department - Chief Nicholas Abramson~~

Is this agency a participating member of the CAC referenced in Section II(G)?

Date

☐ Yes ☐ No

Paul Bantum

Paul Bantum (Nov 21, 2025 12:04:05 EST)

11/21/2025

Dover Police Department - Chief Paul Bantum

Is this agency a participating member of the CAC referenced in Section II(G)?

Date

☒ Yes ☐ No

Rocky Dusenberry

12-16-2025

Port Washington Police Department - Chief Rocky Dusenberry

Is this agency a participating member of the CAC referenced in Section II(G)?

Date

☒ Yes ☐ No

Uhrichsville Police Department - Chief Vince Beal

Is this agency a participating member of the CAC referenced in Section II(G)?

Date

☐ Yes ☐ No

Midvale Police Department - Chief Brian Anderson

Is this agency a participating member of the CAC referenced in Section II(G)?

Date

☐ Yes ☐ No

Craig Kennedy

Craig Kennedy (Nov 7, 2025 11:05:14 EST)

11/07/2025

Newcomerstown Police Department - Chief Craig Kennedy

Is this agency a participating member of the CAC referenced in Section II(G)?

Date

☐ Yes ☐ No

Todd Beeman

Todd Beeman (Nov 10, 2025 08:19:54 EST)

11/10/2025

Dennison Police Department - Chief Todd Beeman

Is this agency a participating member of the CAC referenced in Section II(G)?

Date

☐ Yes ☐ No

Orvis Campbell

Orvis Campbell (Nov 28, 2025 11:28:22 EST)

11/28/2025

Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Office - Sheriff Orvis Campbell

Is this agency a participating member of the CAC referenced in Section II(G)?

Date

☐ Yes ☐ No

Randall Haugh Jr

Randall Haugh Jr (Nov 14, 2025 11:07:09 EST)

**Village of Strasburg Police Department - Chief Randy Haugh**

Is this agency a participating member of the CAC referenced in Section II(G)?

11/14/2025

Date

☒ Yes ☐ No

Tessa Pohovey

Tessa Pohovey (Nov 18, 2025 12:21:08 EST)

**New Philadelphia Police Department - Chief Tessa Pohovey**

Is this agency a participating member of the CAC referenced in Section II(G)?

11/18/2025

Date

☐ Yes ☐ No

Krista M. Nutter

Krista M. Nutter (Nov 14, 2025 11:03:56 EST)

**Tuscarawas County Prosecutor's Office -**

**Krista Nutter, Deputy Director Victim's Assistance Program**

Is this agency a participating member of the CAC referenced in Section II(G)?

11/14/2025

Date

☐ Yes ☐ No

Veronica Spidell

Veronica Spidell (Nov 12, 2025 07:54:46 EST)

**Tuscarawas County Job & Family Services -**

**Veronica Spidell, Director**

Is this agency a participating member of the CAC referenced in Section II(G)?

Date

☐ Yes ☐ No

Haley Predragovich

Haley Predragovich (Nov 8, 2025 12:14:07 EST)

**Tuscarawas County Humane Society -**

**Haley Predragovich, Shelter Director**

Is this agency a participating member of the CAC referenced in Section II(G)?

Date

☐ Yes ☐ No

Ryan Styer

Ryan Styer (Nov 7, 2025 12:31:42 EST)

**Tuscarawas County Prosecutor's Office -**

**Ryan Styer, Prosecuting Attorney**

Is this agency a participating member of the CAC referenced in Section II(G)?

Date

☐ Yes ☐ No

Adam Wilgus

Adam Wilgus (Nov 17, 2025 12:06:10 EST)

**Tuscarawas County Juvenile Court - Judge Adam Wilgus**

Is this agency a participating member of the CAC referenced in Section II(G)?

11/17/2025

Date

☐ Yes ☐ No

Mandy Willett

Mandy Willett (Nov 10, 2025 07:07:27 EST)

**Noah's Hope Child Advocacy Center -**

**Mandy Willett, Executive Director**

Is this agency a participating member of the CAC referenced in Section II(G)?

Date

☒ Yes ☐ No

Nichole John

Nichole John (Nov 7, 2025 11:59:30 EST)

**Tuscarawas County Job & Family Services -**

**Nichole John, Social Service Supervisor**

Is this agency a participating member of the CAC referenced in Section II(G)?

Date

☒ Yes ☐ No

11/07/2025

**IX. Refusal to Sign** ☐ **Not Applicable** *(if selected, this section is not relevant.)*

The PCSA attests they attempted to obtain the signature of all required participating agencies as set forth in Section II of this MOU and as mandated through section 2151.4210 of the Revised Code. However, the following agency(ies) or individual(s) refused to sign this MOU.

**Date:** 12/16/2025

**Agency, Name, Title:** Tuscarawas County Job & Family Services, Nichole John  
Social Services Supervisor

**Reason the individual refused to sign:**

Chief Nicholas Abramson is unable to sign due to the disbandment of the Roswell Police Department.

**Date:**

**Agency, Name, Title:**

**Reason the individual refused to sign:**

**Date:**


**Agency, Name, Title:**

**Reason the individual refused to sign:**



**X. Board of County Commissioners**

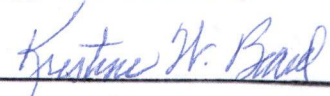
The PCSA is to submit the MOU signed by all participating agencies to the Board of County Commissioners. The participating agencies will ensure there is adequate time for both the County Board of Commissioners and DCY review and approval process along with any returns for correction prior to the end of the contractual period.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
County Commissioners Signature and Date/Resolution/Vote

**The Board of Tuscarawas County Commissioners hereby review and approve the Tuscarawas County Memorandum of Understanding.**

**ATTACHMENTS**

Approved as to form by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_

# TCJFS MOU To Address Child Abuse and Neglect 2025

Interim Agreement Report


2025-12-16

Created:	2025-11-07
By:	Lisa Vitale Arnold (tusca-pcsa-contracts@jfs.ohio.gov)
Status:	Out for Signature
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAqTu8Q6Qv_cidov7hRrHCiThVRF7vVpLP


## Agreement History

Agreement history is the list of the events that have impacted the status of the agreement prior to the final signature. A final audit report will be generated when the agreement is complete.


## "TCJFS MOU To Address Child Abuse and Neglect 2025" History

-  Document created by Lisa Vitale Arnold (tusca-pcsa-contracts@jfs.ohio.gov)  
2025-11-07 - 3:53:22 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to Dennis Moody  
2025-11-07 - 3:53:37 PM GMT  
for signature
-  Document emailed to Chad Hilty  
2025-11-07 - 3:53:37 PM GMT  
for signature
-  Document emailed to Kevin Kaser  
2025-11-07 - 3:53:37 PM GMT  
for signature
-  Document emailed to Jim Goodall  
2025-11-07 - 3:53:38 PM GMT  
for signature
-  Document emailed to Nicholas Abramson  
2025-11-07 - 3:53:38 PM GMT  
for signature
-  Document emailed to Paul Bantum  
2025-11-07 - 3:53:39 PM GMT  
for signature
-  Document emailed to Rocky Dusenberry  
2025-11-07 - 3:53:39 PM GMT  
for signature


-  Document emailed to Vince Beal  
2025-11-07 - 3:53:40 PM GMT for signature
-  Document emailed to Brian Anderson  
2025-11-07 - 3:53:40 PM GMT for signature
-  Document emailed to Craig Kennedy  
2025-11-07 - 3:53:41 PM GMT for signature
-  Document emailed to Todd Beeman  
2025-11-07 - 3:53:41 PM GMT for signature
-  Document emailed to Orvis Campbell  
2025-11-07 - 3:53:41 PM GMT for signature
-  Document emailed to Randy Haugh  
2025-11-07 - 3:53:42 PM GMT for signature
-  Document emailed to Tessa Pohovey  
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-  Document emailed to Krista Nutter  
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-  Document emailed to Veronica Spidell  
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-  Email viewed by Vince Beal  
2025-11-07 - 3:54:06 PM GMT

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2025-11-07 - 3:58:07 PM GMT

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2025-11-07 - 4:12:28 PM GMT

 Email viewed by Nichole John

2025-11-07 - 4:58:49 PM GMT

 Document e-signed by Nichole John


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 Email viewed by Ryan Styer


2025-11-07 - 5:29:38 PM GMT

 Document e-signed by Ryan Styer (


Signature Date: 2025-11-07 - 5:31:42 PM GMT - Time Source: server

 Email viewed by Kevin Kaser


2025-11-07 - 7:07:24 PM GMT

 Email viewed by Orvis Campbell

2025-11-08 - 0:20:16 AM GMT

 Email viewed by Haley Predragovich

2025-11-08 - 5:09:07 PM GMT

 Document e-signed by Haley Predragovich


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 Email viewed by Paul Bantum

2025-11-10 - 2:05:41 AM GMT

 Email viewed by Mandy Willett


2025-11-10 - 12:04:31 PM GMT

 Document e-signed by Mandy Willett

Signature Date: 2025-11-10 - 12:07:27 PM GMT - Time Source: server

 Email viewed by Todd Beeman

2025-11-10 - 1:15:07 PM GMT


 Document e-signed by Todd Beeman


Signature Date: 2025-11-10 - 1:19:54 PM GMT - Time Source: server





**Adobe Acrobat Sign**





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2025-11-10 - 10:33:25 PM GMT

 Email viewed by Veronica Spidell (  
2025-11-12 - 12:54:08 PM GMT


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2025-11-14 - 3:59:10 PM GMT

 Email viewed by Vince Beal (  
2025-11-14 - 3:59:19 PM GMT

 Email viewed by Krista Nutter  
2025-11-14 - 4:00:04 PM GMT


 Signer Krista Nutter entered name at signing as Krista M. Nutter  
2025-11-14 - 4:03:54 PM GMT


 Document e-signed by Krista M. Nutter (  
Signature Date: 2025-11-14 - 4:03:56 PM GMT - Time Source: server

 Email viewed by Randy Haugh  
2025-11-14 - 4:05:02 PM GMT


 Signer Randy Haugh entered name at signing as Randall Haugh Jr  
2025-11-14 - 4:07:07 PM GMT


 Document e-signed by Randall Haugh Jr  
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 Email viewed by Orvis Campbell  
2025-11-14 - 7:51:25 PM GMT

 Email viewed by Kevin Kaser  
2025-11-14 - 8:03:32 PM GMT



Email viewed by Adam Wilgus

2025-11-15 - 0:52:53 AM GMT



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2025-11-17 - 5:49:54 PM GMT



Email viewed by Adam Wilgus

2025-11-17 - 5:50:32 PM GMT



Document e-signed by Adam Wilgus

Signature Date: 2025-11-17 - 5:52:10 PM GMT - Time Source: server



Email viewed by Tessa Pohovey

2025-11-18 - 5:19:33 PM GMT



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Email viewed by Brian Anderson

2025-11-21 - 3:59:08 PM GMT



Email viewed by Vince Beal

2025-11-21 - 3:59:39 PM GMT



Email viewed by Paul Bantum

2025-11-21 - 4:41:27 PM GMT



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2025-11-21 - 6:03:02 PM GMT



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Email viewed by Vince Beal

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Email viewed by Brian Anderson


2025-11-28 - 4:04:54 PM GMT




**Adobe Acrobat Sign**

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2025-12-16 - 3:02:54 PM GMT


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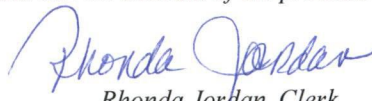
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 Adobe Acrobat Sign

**VOTE:** Kristin Zemis, absent;  
Greg Ress, yes;  
Mitch Pace, yes;

*I hereby certify the above and foregoing to be a true and correct account of the proceedings as had by and before the Board on the day and year first written above.*

  
Rhonda Jordan, Clerk