



## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
TASK FORCE ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT  
Post Office Box 700  
Trenton NJ 08625

James E. McGreevey  
Governor

James M. Davy  
Acting Commissioner

### Citizen Review Panel Survey

In 1996, the Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), was amended to direct states receiving the CAPTA Basic State Grant to establish not less than three citizen review panels. The purpose of the citizen review panels is to examine the policies and procedures of State and local child protective agencies. In July 1997, the New Jersey Comprehensive Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CCAPTA) was enacted to comply with the Federal mandate. As a result, the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Human Services designated three citizen review panels to examine and evaluate the child protective services delivery system within New Jersey.

The Department of Human Services Commissioner designated the New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect to sponsor a Citizen Review Panel. Our Panel meets on a monthly basis to investigate, evaluate, and discuss issues, policies, and procedures related to the State's child protective service agency known as the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services ("DYFS"). A report of the Panel's deliberations and findings are published each year in June.

On June 25, 2003, President Bush signed into law the Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2003 requiring Citizen Review Panels to provide for public outreach and comment in order to assess the impact of current procedures and practices by local and state protective services agencies upon the children and families whom the serve.

As you know, New Jersey's Child Welfare System is currently undergoing dramatic changes. One of these changes involves a much higher level of community involvement in the child protection process. In an effort to learn more about how the public perceives the system at this time, we seek your assistance in completing the brief enclosed survey which specifically relates to the impact DYFS has had on you and/or your community. The data collected from the survey will be incorporated into the Panel's final report to the State and may impact future policy and procedural changes contemplated by DYFS.

Thank you for taking the time to complete our survey. Please forward your completed survey to the New Jersey Task Force on Abuse and Neglect at the above address.

Sincerely,

Rachel Modiano, Psy.D.  
Chairwoman, Citizen Review Panel of the New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect