



**ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
ASSEMBLY SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOSTER CARE**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

SUBJECT: Status of Mandated Reporters of Child Abuse or Maltreatment in New York State

PURPOSE: To examine the range of mandated reporters, their effectiveness and impact on the child welfare system, potential biases, and how the system can be reformed.

**POSTPONED
NEW DATE TBD**

**Thursday, April 27th, 2023
11:00 am
New York City
250 Broadway
19th Floor Hearing Room
New York, New York 10007**

New York State recognizes that certain professionals are specially equipped to fulfill the role of mandated reporter of child abuse or maltreatment. Mandated reporters are required to report suspected child abuse or maltreatment when, in their professional capacity, they are presented with reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or maltreatment. In New York State, more than four dozen designated professional titles are mandated by law to report reasonable suspicions of abuse to the State Central Registry (SCR). Following the receipt of a SCR hotline report, a Child Protective Services (CPS) investigation is opened, which can lead to state intervention, family disruption, and child separation.

A range of questions have been raised about the child welfare system, including analysis of the racial and ethnic disparities in CPS cases across the State. According to a study reported by the New England Review of Medicine in 2020, it was noted that Black families are more likely to be reported and investigated for child abuse and neglect, to have their cases substantiated, and to have their children removed from their custody or care. Further, by the time they reach 18 years old, 53% of Black children in the United States will have been subjected to at least one child protective services investigation compared with 28% of white children and 37% of all children. In 2019, according to the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), Black children were 3.7 times more likely to enter foster care than White children, representing 52% of children in foster care in New York, and in New York City specifically, the New York State Bar Association in 2020 found that although Black and Hispanic children comprise only 61.3% of the total NYC population, they constitute 87.8% of the children in investigations.

The committees seek to receive testimony from relevant stakeholders on the short and long-term impacts on children and families involved in the child welfare system; which demographics of children and families are impacted; and how effective are the state and local agencies in enforcing the various child welfare laws. Specifically, the committees wish to gather information regarding the effectiveness of the current mandated reporting system, as well as any recommendations that may be appropriate to help the State improve this process. Additionally, the committees seek to examine the extent to which racial and ethnic disparities exists in New York child welfare system and its effects on minority children and families across the State.

Oral testimony will be limited to five (5) minutes. In preparing the order of witnesses, the Committees will do their best to accommodate individual requests to speak at specific times in view of special circumstances, however these are not guaranteed. These requests should be made on the attached reply form or communicated to Committee staff no later than **Friday, April 21st, 2023**.

Please note that this public hearing will take place in New York City, and witnesses must attend in person if they wish to make a public statement. No virtual testimony option is available for this hearing.

Ten (10) copies of witnesses prepared testimony must be submitted at the hearing registration desk on the day of the hearing, or one copy may be submitted by email to the contact listed below no later than two (2) days prior to the hearing. The Committee would greatly appreciate advance receipt of prepared statements.

Attendees and participants at any legislative public hearing should be aware that these proceedings are video recorded. Their likenesses may be included in any video coverage shown on television or the internet.

In order to further publicize these hearings, please inform interested parties and organizations of the Committees' interest in hearing testimony from all sources.

In order to meet the needs of those who may have a disability, the Assembly, in accordance with its policy of non-discrimination on the basis of disability, as well as the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), has made its facilities and services available to all individuals with disabilities. For individuals with disabilities, accommodations will be provided, upon reasonable request, to afford such individuals access and admission to Assembly facilities and activities.

Andrew Hevesi
Member of Assembly
Chair, Committee on Children and Families

Taylor R. Darling
Member of Assembly
Chair, Subcommittee on Foster Care

PUBLIC HEARING REPLY FORM

Persons wishing to present testimony at the public hearing on the status of Mandated Reporters of Child Abuse or Maltreatment in New York State are requested to complete and return the reply form by email, fax, or by mail no later than **Friday, April 21st, 2023**, to the contact below:

Lauren Ryan
Legislative Analyst
Assembly Committee on Children and Families
Room 442 - Capitol
Albany, New York, 12248
Email: ryanl@nyassembly.gov
Phone: (518) 455 - 4371
Fax: (518) 455 - 4693

- I plan to attend the following public hearing on the status of Mandated Reporters of Child Abuse or Maltreatment in New York State on **Thursday, April 27th, 2023**, in New York City.
- I plan to make a public statement in person at the hearing. My statement will be limited to 5 minutes, and I will answer any questions which may arise. I will provide 10 copies of my prepared statement in person the day of, and I will email my statement to the above contact at least 2 days in advance.
- My statement will address the following topics: _____

- I do not plan to attend the above hearing.
- I would like to be added to the Committee mailing list for notices and reports.
- I would like to be removed from the Committee mailing list.
- I will require assistance and/or handicapped accessibility information.

Please specify the type of assistance required: _____

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL: _____

TELEPHONE: _____