



March 28, 2024

To people interested in the Texas State Child Fatality Review Team (SCFRT) Committee:

About SCFRT:

According to the [Texas Family Code, Subchapter F, Section 264.501](#) the purpose of the SCFRT Committee is to:

- (1) Develop an understanding of the causes and incidence of child deaths in this state;
- (2) Identify procedures within the agencies represented on the committee to reduce the number of preventable child deaths; and
- (3) Promote public awareness and make recommendations to the governor and the legislature for changes in law, policy, and practice to reduce the number of preventable child deaths.

The committee must produce a formal biennial report with recommendations to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS). The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) will share the biennial report with the public and include information on child fatality incidences and causes.

A committee member must regularly participate in committee meetings and may also participate in subcommittee meetings, projects, and presentations. Committee meetings will be held quarterly or at the call of the committee chair. Members must attend meetings in person, by telephone, or other electronic medium as established by DSHS. Committee members may receive reimbursement for their travel to and from in-person meetings if funds are available.

Each member of the committee must be a member of the child fatality review team in the county where the committee member resides unless the committee member is an appointed representative of a state agency.

DSHS is currently accepting committee membership applications for the following positions:

- A Child Educator;
- An Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Provider;
- A Police Chief;
- A Department of Public Safety (DPS) Representative;
- A Justice of the Peace (JP);
- A Sheriff;
- A Neonatologist;
- A Pediatrician experienced in diagnosing and treating child abuse and neglect;
- A Child Protective Services (CPS) Specialist; and
- A Chief Juvenile Probation Officer.

The SCFRT Committee permanent members will appoint members to the SCFRT Committee to serve a three-year term. **Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. (CT) on April 25, 2024.**

The committee must include representatives of each of the following:

- A criminal prosecutor involved in prosecuting crimes against children; a sheriff; a justice of the peace; a medical examiner; a police chief; a pediatrician experienced in diagnosing and treating child abuse and neglect; a child educator; a child mental health provider; a public health professional; a child protective services specialist; a sudden infant death syndrome family service provider; a neonatologist; a child advocate; a chief juvenile probation officer; a child abuse prevention specialist; a representative of the Department of Public Safety; a representative of the Texas Department of Transportation; an emergency medical services provider; and a provider of services to, or an advocate for, victims of family violence.
- Six permanent members representing legislators, DSHS, and DFPS.

If you would like to serve on the SCFRT, please complete and return the attached application no later than **11:59 p.m. (CT) on April 25, 2024**. You may email this application to cfrt@dshs.texas.gov, attention Sarah Blezinger, Injury Prevention Coordinator. DSHS will notify applicants by May 24, 2024, if the SCFRT selected them to serve as a committee member.

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Under [Texas Family Code, Chapter 264, Section 264.502](#)(d), the SCFRT Committee must select committee members that represent the diversity of all Texans. For that reason, members selected under subsection (b) must reflect the geographical, cultural, racial, and ethnic diversity of the state.

For more information, please submit questions to cfrt@dshs.texas.gov or visit the DSHS SCFRT website at [State Child Fatality Review Team Committee | Texas DSHS](#).