

Children's Justice Act Task Force (CJATF)

Monday, August 3, 2026 | 12:00–1:00 PM

Act 108

In Attendance:

Matthew Bernstein, Office of the Child Youth and Family Advocate
Britaney Watson, Social Justice Organization Representative
Kelli O'Neill, Clinical Social Worker
Stefanie Comstock, Spectrum Youth Services
Gary Marvel, Department of Corrections
Tracey Wagner, UVM Health & VT SANE Board
Lauren Higbee, Office of the Child Youth and Family Advocate
Hannah Marble, Department for Children and Families
Jen Harris, Department for Children and Families
Nancy Miller, Department for Children and Families
Lindsay Barron, Department for Children and Families
Jenn Poehmann, Center for Crime Victim Services
Tracy Patnoe, Child Advocacy Center Representative
Jen LeScouezec, Vermont Communication Support Project
Kim McManus, Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs
Dr. James Metz, UVM Health
Mike Maughan, Individual with Lived Experience
Domenica Padula, Office of the Attorney General
Zoe Nixon, Vermont Children's Alliance
Trish Black, Child Advocacy Center Representative
Dan Boyer, Child Advocacy Center Representative
Kate Bailey, Voices for Vermont's Children
Meghan Masterson, Kid Safe Collaborative
Sam Prince, Vermont Children's Alliance

Act 108 Overview & Working Group Charge

- Walk through the final legislation
- Review of the Working Group's responsibilities, scope, membership, timeline, and required deliverables
- Begin identifying what the group will need to work through in the months ahead
- Discussion occurs surrounding certain categories of the work, including out of home perpetrators, reporting, and definitions.
- There is an overview provided of CAPTA, including minimum expectations for child protection investigations from a federal perspective.

Background & Preliminary Research

- A group member shared background on how the legislation came to be, and the reasons that prompted them to draw attention to this work.

Working Group Website & Public Information

- FSD provided a walkthrough of the [Act 108 website](#).

Discussion & Next Steps

- Initial reactions, questions, and areas for further exploration
- Identify additional perspectives, information, or research needed
- Discuss how CJATF can support and inform the Working Group moving forward