

Act 154 – November Stakeholder Meeting

November 7, 2025

Please be advised that these meeting notes do not constitute decisions formally made by the Division, although they may be implemented into the final Act 154 policies and procedures. The information included herein comprises input from multiple agencies, the Act 154 Core Team, and stakeholders.

First Hour:

- Introduction and walkthrough of the website: [Child Protection Registry Reform | Department for Children and Families](#)
- Overview of our Act 154 Legislative Progress Report and key updates since the October meetings: [Act-154-Report-10.1.2025.pdf](#)

Second Hour: Introduction and discussion of the Child Protection Levels:
[Substantiation Levels Fillable.pdf](#)

Questions, Comments, and Clarifications:

- Commendations were given to the Department and stakeholders for engaging in the important system reformation work of Act 154.
- Discussions occurred around a registry placement for 15 years. Many agreed that this number of years for certain instances of abuse or neglect was appropriate. Family Services will reach out to others to better understand how the 15-year timeframe was established.
- Points were raised surrounding the length of time to expungement, potentially impacting how soon a person may take steps toward qualifying for expungement.
- Concerns were raised about the capacity of the system to conduct in-depth reviews, if early expungement were to be considered.
- Discussion took place surrounding the complexities of domestic violence, and its intersection of domestic violence with substantiation.
- Family Services staff clarified the expungement process, including that the expungement review information is shared with the Deputy Commissioner.
- Family Services staff will follow up with other states to inquire about any states that have a similar child protection level framework.
- Discussions occurred surrounding the potential for biases, including severity biases.

- Family Services staff will gather input from other systems, such as the Child Development Division and the Department of Mental Health.