



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

---

January 6, 2003

03 - 0045

Legislative Reference Library  
645 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: 2002 Child Maltreatment Review Panel Report

Dear Librarian:

As required by the Laws of Minnesota Special Session 2001, chapter 9, article 11, section 3, I respectfully submit this Report on the Child Maltreatment Review Panel (CMRP) activities for calendar year 2002. In accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, we are sending six copies of the report to the Legislative Reference Library.

The CMRP was created by a Special Session of the 2001 Legislature to review maltreatment investigations in state licensed facilities, such as day care centers, correctional institutions or schools. An adult, acting on behalf of a child, may request a review of a licensed facility's child maltreatment investigation findings.

The Panel meets quarterly to review cases for consistency with Minnesota Statutes, section 626.556, subdivision 10i, paragraph (b). The Panel requests and encourages written statements and documentation from all parties involved in an investigation under review. All oral communication with the Panel is handled through the Minnesota Department of Human Services panel member.

During 2002, a one-page informational sheet was developed. It is given to those who do not agree with their Administrative Reconsideration decision. A copy of this information sheet is enclosed.

The Panel includes the following representatives as required:

Tom Lombard, Chief Compliance Officer  
Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning

Chris Morris, Investigator  
Minnesota Office of Crime Victims Ombudsman

Roberta Opheim, Ombudsman  
Minnesota Office of the Ombudsman for Mental Health and Mental Retardation

Legislative Reference Library  
Page 2  
January 6, 2003

Brenda Pautsch  
Minnesota Department of Corrections

Thom Campbell, Social Service Program Consultant  
Minnesota Department of Human Services

Linda Sutherland, Assistant Commissioner  
Minnesota Department of Health

The Panel held four quarterly meetings during calendar year 2002: the first on January 3, 2002, the second on April 4, 2002, the third on July 8, 2002, and the fourth on November 5 and 19, 2002. The panel reviewed one request at each quarterly meeting.

The Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning investigated three cases. The first case involved alleged child maltreatment by a school aide. The second concerned an allegation of sexual contact by a teacher. The third involved alleged verbal abuse by a teacher.

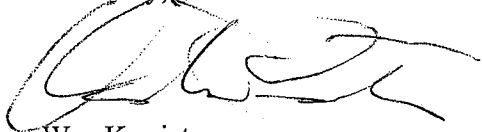
One case involved an investigation conducted by the Minnesota Department of Human Services involving allegation of abuse by several group home residential staff.

The Panel agreed with the determination of three of the cases, and returned one case to the Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning for reconsideration.

The Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning was required to reconsider the sexual contact allegation case. The Panel requested the Department to consider collateral sources of information when reconsidering the case. The Department did not change the determination after the reconsideration.

With only four cases reviewed, the Panel has no recommendation for improving the investigative process for either the Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning or the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

Sincerely,



Wes Kooistra  
Deputy Commissioner

Enclosure

# Child Maltreatment Review Panel

## Addressing concerns about Minnesota's children

The Child Maltreatment Review Panel was established by the legislature so people acting on behalf of children could request a review of child maltreatment investigation findings in licensed facilities.

Parents, guardians or guardians ad litem who have a child in a licensed facility, such as day care or a group home, may request review by the Child Maltreatment Review panel when they do not agree with the maltreatment determination after a reconsideration decision.

The panel meets quarterly. It includes representatives from the Minnesota Departments of Human Services; Corrections; Children, Families and Learning; the Offices of Ombudsman for Mental Health and Mental Retardation; and Crime Victims.

The panel meets to review the decision of the investigating agency. The panel may affirm the decision or it may ask the investigating agency to reconsider its determination. The panel will provide additional steps for the investigating agency to take in the reconsideration process.



To request review, or for more information, write to:  
Minnesota Department of Human Services  
Child Maltreatment Review Panel Coordinator  
444 Lafayette Road North  
St. Paul, MN. 55155-3830  
Or call: 651-297-3050