

III. HISTORY AND MAJOR EVENTS

Provide a timeline of your agency's history and key events, including:

- the original purpose and responsibilities of your agency;
- major changes in responsibilities or statutory authority;
- changes to your policymaking body's name or composition;
- significant changes in state/federal legislation, mandates, or funding;
- significant state and federal litigation that specifically affects your agency's operations; and
- key changes in your agency's organization (such as a major reorganization of the agency's divisions or program areas).

The Legislature established the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) by renaming the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services.

The following history contains major events related to the programs delivered by DFPS today, as well as organizational changes that lead up to its creation. Events relating to the establishment today's Health and Human Services system are highlighted in bold.

1939

Senate Bill 26, known as the Public Welfare Act of 1939, creates the Texas Department of Public Welfare.

1977

The Legislature renames the Texas Department of Public Welfare the Texas Department of Human Resources.

1991

The Legislature creates the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (PRS). PRS assumes all responsibilities for child and adult protective services and Child Care Licensing from the Department of Human Services (DHS). In addition, investigations of abuse and neglect in TDMHMR facilities are transferred from MHMR to PRS.

The Legislature abolishes the Health and Human Services Coordinating Council and creates the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), to oversee the state's major health and human services agencies: Texas Department on Aging, Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Commission for the Blind, Commission for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired, Interagency Council on Early Childhood Intervention, Department of Health, Department of Human Services, Juvenile Probation Commission, TDMHMR, Department of Protective and Regulatory Services, and the Rehabilitation Commission. The Legislature originally placed the Texas Youth Commission under HHSC, but removed it in 1993.

1992

The Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services assumes all responsibilities for child and adult protective services and Child Care Licensing from the Department of Human Services on September 1, 1992.

1995

The Legislature transfers responsibility for investigations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation in community MHMR centers from MHMR to the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services.

2003

As part of H.B. 2292, the Legislature renames the Department as the Department of Family and Protective Services and places it under the oversight of the Health and Human Services Commission.

2004

The Governor directs HHSC to review and reform DFPS' Adult Protective Services (APS) and Child Protective Services (CPS) programs.

2005

The Legislature substantially reforms CPS and APS', as well as changes the Child Care Licensing (CCL) program, focusing on strengthening investigative processes.

2007

The Legislature continues to improve the CPS program, by directing the agency to hire more caseworkers, improve response to reports of abuse, and form a pilot program to privatize 10 percent of case management (a directive that did not receive funding).

2009

The Legislature charges APS with investigating abuse, neglect, and exploitation in a new setting – private intermediate care facilities.

The Legislature also codifies licensing exceptions in statute that had previously been handled by rule and expands services and benefits for youth in foster care.

2011

The Legislature significantly reduces funding for many DFPS programs and Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) services are particularly affected.

The Legislature did support CPS' Foster Care Redesign project, which authorizes DFPS to change the way it contracts with and pays for foster care services so as to create incentives for improving outcomes for children.

2013

The 83rd Legislature provides funding to DFPS targeted to improve the safety of children, strengthen staff retention, expand prevention services, improve kinship services, and enhance agency infrastructure. DFPS receives an additional 1000 staff to lower caseloads for CPS Investigations, Conservatorship, and Kinship workers, maintain caller hold time in Statewide Intake, and investigate illegal childcare. The Legislature also funds an update to the DFPS automated casework systems, changes in the caseworker career ladder program and an increase in relative caregiver monetary assistance one-time integration payments for sibling groups.

The Legislature also passes several large initiatives to improve outcomes for children, and enhance safety at residential childcare facilities.