



Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

Commissioner
Stephanie Muth

October 1, 2023

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

The Honorable Dade Phelan
Speaker, House of Representatives
P. O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768-2910

The Honorable James Frank, Chair
House Committee on Human Services
State Representative
P. O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768-2910

The Honorable Dan Patrick
Lieutenant Governor
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, Texas 78711-2068

The Honorable Lois Kolkhorst, Chair
Senate Committee on Health & Human Services
State Senator
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, Texas 78711-2068

Dear Governor Abbott, Lieutenant Governor Patrick, Speaker Phelan, Chair Kolkhorst, and Chair Frank:

The Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) submits this letter in lieu of the *Foster Children in Drug Research Programs Report*. Family Code, Section 266.0041(1) requires DFPS to annually report on the following:

- The number of children in DFPS conservatorship who are enrolled or participated in a drug research program during the previous year.
- The purpose of the drug research program in which a child in DFPS conservatorship was enrolled or participated; and
- The number of children in DFPS conservatorship for whom a court order was issued approving the enrollment or participation of a foster child in a drug research program involving an investigational new drug before appointing an independent medical advocate.

To implement these requirements, DFPS developed policy, trained key staff, and made enhancements to IMPACT, the DFPS case management database, to add fields to automatically track this data. The data indicates:

- During fiscal year 2023, no children in DFPS conservatorship were enrolled or participated in a drug research study.
- There were no court orders issued in fiscal year 2023 related to a child in DFPS conservatorship enrolling or participating in clinical trials for an investigational new drug.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information. Jason Steele, Director of Government Relations, serves as the lead staff on this matter, and he may be reach by telephone at 512-552-1398 or by email at Jason.Steele2@dfps.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Muth