



General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
**Joint State Government Commission**  
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**Short summary in response to House Resolution 228 of 2022**  
**Adverse Childhood Experiences: Effects of Pennsylvania Statutes and Regulations**  
**Report of the Advisory Committee**

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As directed by House Resolution no. 228 (Sess. of 2022), the Joint State Government Commission established an Advisory Committee to collaborate on this study covering statutes and regulations promulgated within the past five years, currently in effect, under 23 Pa.C.S. (relating to domestic relations), 67 Pa.C.S. (relating to public welfare) and the Human Services Code. The objective was to identify any of these “that have exacerbated trauma in children and families.” There were 36 statutory amendments studied along with corresponding regulatory amendments that amounted to approximately 700 pages of material.

The advisory committee convened seven times to study the statutes and regulations specified in the resolution, as well as develop responsive recommendations. Some of the amendments were considered once; others were considered several times. Numerous amendments are protective in nature. Numerous other amendments deal with the administration and delivery of human services. The members of the advisory committee also had access to the material for individual preparation and study. While some issues were identified among several statutes and rules, the advisory committee did not identify any specific amendment and conclude that it exacerbated trauma in children and families.

The proposed methods to draft statutes and regulations in a trauma-informed manner require a deliberate process; awareness itself is not sufficient. The recommendations cover application of the principles for a trauma-informed approach, consideration by the executive and General Assembly, and a possible statutory resource for the legislative, executive and judicial branches. If enacted accordingly, a statutory child advocate could insert trauma-informed principles in the legislative process.

The Advisory Committee recognized that a trauma-informed approach to drafting involves policy development that invokes core issues, preferences, and beliefs and occurs through consultation among stakeholders.

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