



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

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08 - 0148

January 25, 2008

Patrick Flahaven  
Secretary of the Senate  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Room 231  
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606

Re: 2007 Child Maltreatment Review Panel Report

Dear Mr. Flahaven:

As required by the *Laws of Minnesota* Special Session 2001, Chapter 9, Article 11, section 3, I am respectfully submitting this report on the Child Maltreatment Review Panel activities for calendar year 2006. In accordance with requirements of Minnesota Statutes, I am also forwarding six copies of the report to the Legislative Reference Library.

Legislation creating the Child Maltreatment Review Panel was enacted during a special session of the 2001 Minnesota Legislature. The panel reviews an investigating agency's determinations regarding maltreatment of a child in state licensed facilities such as child care centers, correctional institutions, or schools in response to requests received under section 626.556, subdivision 10i, paragraph (b). An adult, acting on behalf of a child, can make a request, in writing for a review of an investigating agency's determinations regarding a report of child maltreatment.

The Child Maltreatment Review Panel meets quarterly if there are cases to be reviewed. The panel requests and encourages written statements and documentation from all parties involved in an investigation being reviewed. The Minnesota Department of Human Services provides a coordinator who facilitates all communication with the panel.

The panel consisted of the following required agency representatives for calendar year 2006:

Erin Magnus, Minnesota Department of Education  
Roberta Opheim, Minnesota Office of the Ombudsman for Mental  
Health/Mental Retardation  
Lisa Cain, Minnesota Department of Corrections  
Maxie Rockymore and John Langworthy, Minnesota Department of Human Services  
Nancy Blume, Minnesota Department of Health

Patrick Flahaven  
Page 2  
January 25, 2008

The Office of Ombudsman for Crime Victims no longer participates as it was eliminated in 2003.

**Statistics for 2007:**

**Requests for review received:** 4  
**Reviews conducted:** 5 [two from a 2006 request]  
**Reconsideration required:** 0

Two Review Panel meetings were held in 2007. The first meeting in February reviewed two cases from 2006; the second meeting in December reviewed three cases received in 2007.

One request received in December 2007 will be reviewed in January 2008.

**Recommendation:**

The Child Maltreatment Review Panel continues its recommendation that the legislature consider allowing for a determination of maltreatment in a licensed facility irrespective of a determination of no determined perpetrator.

Yours sincerely,



Cal R. Ludeman  
Commissioner