

**Arkansas Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Response to
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce Inquiry
Regarding Oversight of Abortion Facilities**

The following information is regarding the Arkansas Division of Children and Family Services' compliance with the Child Abuse and Prevention Treatment Act (CAPTA) as it relates to the State's procedures for responding to reports of medical neglect of infants with life-threatening conditions/disabilities.

As noted in its federal Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR), the Arkansas Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) maintains an agreement with the Arkansas Chapter of Pediatrics for the availability of a physician to assist in responding to "Baby Doe" reports. The Division has a policy (see below) that outlines procedures to be taken in the event a "Baby Doe" report is received. "Baby Doe" services are provided statewide.

The following is the DCFS Policy regarding Medical Neglect of an Infant with Disabilities ("Baby Doe"):

POLICY II-F: MEDICAL NEGLECT OF AN INFANT WITH DISABILITIES

R. 09/2011

The Division of Children and Family Services shall maintain sufficient contact with health care facilities to facilitate communication between those facilities and the Division in order to enable the health care facilities to report suspected medical neglect of an infant with disabilities.

PROCEDURE II-F1: Medical Neglect of an Infant with Disabilities

The Family Service Worker will:

- A. Make telephone inquiry to the health care facility immediately upon receipt of an allegation of suspected medical neglect of an infant with disabilities to determine if:
 - 1) the infant has a life threatening condition,
 - 2) the parents have refused to consent to treatment,
 - 3) the treating physician recommended treatment, and
 - 4) the facility's infant care review committee has analyzed the child's health and family circumstances.
- B. Contact the Child Protective Services Field Assistance Unit immediately to arrange an assessment by the contracted physician.
- C. Contact OCC if a parent will not sign a release to allow DCFS to examine medical records or obtain an independent medical examination of the infant.

The following information from the Arkansas Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) shows the counts of overall finding and priority level for medical neglect of infants with disabilities since 2006.

Year	Total	Overall Finding			Priority Level	
Investigation Ended	Cases	TRUE	Unsubstantiated	Exempted (Prenatal Exposure)	One	Two
2006	2	2	0	0	1	1
2007	3	1	2	0	3	0
2008	4	1	3	0	4	0
2009	1	0	0	1	1	0
2010	3	2	1	0	2	1
2011	1	1	0	0	1	0
2012	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2013	1	0	1	0	1	0
Totals	15	7	7	1	13	2
Percentage		46.667%	46.667%	6.667%	86.667%	13.333%