Child Fatality Review Team (CFRT) Interagency Agreement

All CFRT members should sign the Interagency Agreement when forming a new CFRT. If a new member joins the team, only the new member will need to sign the Interagency Agreement. The team coordinator must keep the Interagency Agreement and forward a copy to the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) state injury prevention coordinator.

**Agreements:**

The parties are vested with the authority to promote and protect the public health and safety and to provide services which improve the well‐being of children and their families.

The parties agree that they are mutually served by the establishment of a multi‐agency, multi‐professional CFRT, and that the outcome of such reviews will be the identification of preventable child deaths and recommendations for intervention and prevention strategies.

The CFRT objectives are agreed to be:

* Promote cooperation, communication, and coordination among agencies involved in responding to child deaths.
* Assure the accurate inventory of child fatalities by age, location, cause, manner, and circumstance.
* Support adequate child death investigation and certification.
* Implement investigative guidelines and recommendations for child fatalities.
* Improve recognition of child deaths from abuse and neglect, genetic diseases, inadequate medical care, and public health dangers through analysis of patterns and trends in child fatalities.
* Enhance the general awareness of child deaths through understanding how and why children die.
* Identify system‐based impediments to child health and safety that, when removed, will ultimately reduce preventable child death numbers.
* Initiate local prevention efforts to reduce preventable child death numbers as indicated by CFRT findings.

The parties agree the CFRT membership be comprised of, but not limited to, the following professionals:

* Criminal Prosecutor
* Sheriff
* Medical Examiner
* Justice of the Peace
* Police
* Pediatrician
* Child Educator
* Child Mental Health Provider
* Public health representative
* A Child Protective Services Specialist
* A Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Service Provider
* Neonatologist
* Child advocate
* Juvenile probation officer
* Child Abuse Prevention Specialist

The parties agree the review process requires case specific record sharing and that confidentiality is inherent in many of the involved reports, there will be clear measures taken to protect confidentiality.

It is agreed that all CFRT members will sign a confidentiality agreement which prohibits any unauthorized information dissemination beyond the purpose of the review process. Data will be submitted by the CFRT to DSHS where it will be maintained for the purpose of establishing a state central child fatality registry with standardized, non‐identified aggregate data from CFRTs throughout Texas.

Name of Child Fatality Review Team:

The following agencies make this cooperative agreement:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **District Attorney’s Office**Name | **Medical Examiner/Justice of the Peace**Name |
| Signature | Signature |
| **Sheriff Department**NameSignature | **DFPS - Child Protective Services**NameSignature |
| **Police Department**NameSignature | **City/County Health Department**NameSignature |
| **Add Agency Name**NameSignature | **Add Agency Name**NameSignature |