

Child Fatality Review: Reducing Preventable Child Deaths

In 1995, the Texas legislature created the State Child Fatality Review Team (SCFRT) Committee and corresponding local Child Fatality Review Teams (CFRTs) to review and understand child deaths.

The SCFRT Committee is a group of experts throughout Texas. They want to reduce the number of preventable child deaths. The committee has four goals:

- Understand the causes and incidences of child deaths in Texas;
- Identify procedures to reduce the number of preventable child deaths;
- Promote public awareness; and
- Make recommendations for changes in law, policy, and practice to reduce the number of preventable child deaths.

CFRTs review child deaths on a local level and identify strategies to decrease preventable child deaths. Local CFRTs:

- Provide help, direction, and coordination to investigations of child deaths;
- Promote collaboration among agencies involved in responding to child deaths;
- Try to understand the causes and incidence of child deaths in their county or region;
- Recommend changes to policy or procedures to reduce preventable child deaths; and,
- Suggest changes to law, policy, or practice to the SCFRT.

Contact cfrt@dshs.texas.gov to learn more about child fatality review efforts in your area.