

From: NYS OCFS FOIL Records Access Center <ocfsny@govqa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 11:52 AM
To: elena@judgewatch.org
Subject: New Message :: R000063-021224

--- Please respond above this line ---



RE: FOIL Records Request of February 12, 2024, Reference # R000063-021224

Dear Elena Sassower,

The NYS Office of Children and Family Services received a FOIL request from you on February 12, 2024. You requested:

"Social Services Law §371-B, ¶1, establishes "at least three citizen review panels" and states by its ¶3:

"Each citizen review panel shall, by examining the policies and procedures of the state and social services districts and, where appropriate, specific cases, evaluate the extent to which the agencies are effectively discharging their child protection responsibilities in accordance with: (a) the state plan established pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §5106a(b); (b) the child protection standards set forth in 42 U.S.C. §5106a(b); and (c) any other criteria that the panel considers important to ensure the protection of children. Each panel shall meet not less than once every three months. Each panel may hold public hearings on issues within the panel's jurisdiction."

Pursuant to FOIL, this is to request:

- (1) the referred-to "state plan established pursuant to "42 U.S.C. §5106a(b)" for each year since 2019 and for each of the five years after Social Services Law §371-B was enacted in 1999;**
- (2) records of any "other criteria" that the panel considered "important" to the protection of children;**
- (3) records of "public hearings".**

As 42 USC §5106a(C), which underlies Social Services Law §371-B, states at its ¶(C) entitled "Public Outreach":

"Each panel shall provide for public outreach and comment in order to assess the impact of current procedures and practices upon children and families in the community and in order to meet its obligations under subparagraph (A)",

please also furnish, pursuant to FOIL:

(4) all records as to the manner in which “Each panel” has provided for “public outreach and comment” throughout the more than 20 years since Social Services Law §371-B was enacted.

Thank you.”

Your request has been forwarded to the appropriate program area(s) to identify documents that are responsive to your request, and which may be made available pursuant to all applicable provisions of the Freedom of Information Law.

A determination as to whether your request is granted or denied will be reached in approximately 20 business days or we will notify you in writing if the responsible program area(s) should require additional time to locate, assemble and review documents that may be responsive to your request.

Please note that, pursuant to Article 6 of the Public Officers Law, a charge may be applied to your request, including the actual cost of the medium used to respond to your Freedom of Information Law request and/or other related costs. When responsive records have been identified, you will be informed of any cost and how payment should be made.

Sincerely,

NYS Office of Children and Family Services

To monitor the progress or update this request please log into the [FOIL Records Access Center](#).

