

From: NYS OCFS FOIL Records Access Center <ocfsny@govqa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 9:31 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."

Due to the volume of FOIL requests received by the agency, we require additional time to process your request. At this time, please be advised that OCFS is still conducting a diligent search for records responsive to your request.

Office of Children and Family Services estimates it will complete your request and provide a response in writing by September 17, 2024. If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

NYS Office of Children and Family Services

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

