



PROJECT MILK CARTON

UNIFIED STATE PROFILE

CALIFORNIA

VERIFIED CURRENT | SCAN 2023v1 | 20/20 nodes

47,824

Victims (2023)

581

Missing Children

14,196

Child Crimes

42

Decision Nodes

Generated: February 18, 2026

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This unified profile presents a comprehensive analysis of California's child welfare system, integrating data from federal databases, state policy analysis, and decision chain evaluation.

Key Findings:

Child Safety Trends: California reported 47,824 child maltreatment victims in 2023, representing a decreasing trend (-37.1% change over the analysis period). The state ranks #2 nationally by victim count.

Decision Chain Coverage: This analysis covers 42 decision chain nodes:

12 Intake, 6 Decision,
6 Action, 6 Outcome,
6 Failure, and 6 PMC oversight nodes.

All nodes include federal baseline requirements with state-specific variations.

Crime Data: FBI NIBRS records show 14,196 documented crimes against children in California. Currently, 581 children are listed as missing with NCMEC.

Verification Status: VERIFIED - 20/20 policy nodes verified against SCAN 2023v1 database.

2. LEGAL AUTHORITY HIERARCHY

Child welfare law operates within a hierarchical legal framework where constitutional principles supersede federal statutes, which in turn set minimum standards that state laws must meet or exceed.



3. CONSTITUTIONAL LAYER

Supreme constitutional constraints governing all child welfare actions. These constraints supersede federal, state, and administrative rules and serve as the highest-order legal authority.

Fourth Amendment – Seizure of Persons

U.S. Const. amend. IV

Removal of a child from parental custody constitutes a seizure under the Fourth Amendment. Absent consent or exigent circumstances involving imminent danger of serious bodily harm, removal requires prior judicial authorization (warrant or court order).

- [Tenenbaum v. Williams \(193 F.3d 581 \(2d Cir. 1999\)\)](#)
- [Gates v. Texas Dept. of Protective & Regulatory Services \(537 F.3d 404 \(5th Cir. 2008\)\)](#)

Fourth Amendment – Search of the Home

U.S. Const. amend. IV

Home entry, inspection, or investigation by child welfare officials constitutes a search under the Fourth Amendment. Consent must be voluntary and uncoerced; refusal alone cannot justify entry.

- [Calabretta v. Floyd \(189 F.3d 808 \(9th Cir. 1999\)\)](#)
- [Walsh v. Erie County Dept. of Job and Family Services \(240 F. Supp. 2d 731 \(N.D. Ohio 2003\)\)](#)

Fourteenth Amendment – Procedural Due Process

U.S. Const. amend. XIV, § 1

Parents possess a constitutionally protected liberty interest in the care, custody, and control of their children. Before deprivation, due process requires notice, a meaningful opportunity to be heard, and a neutral decision-maker. Emergency removals require a prompt post-deprivation hearing within

- [Mathews v. Eldridge \(424 U.S. 319 \(1976\)\)](#)
- [Santosky v. Kramer \(455 U.S. 745 \(1982\)\)](#)

Fourteenth Amendment – Substantive Due Process (Family Integrity)

U.S. Const. amend. XIV, § 1

The right to family integrity is a fundamental liberty interest. State interference must be justified by a compelling interest in child safety and must be narrowly tailored to achieve that interest.

- [Troxel v. Granville \(530 U.S. 57 \(2000\)\)](#)
- [Meyer v. Nebraska \(262 U.S. 390 \(1923\)\)](#)

Fifth Amendment – Self-Incrimination

U.S. Const. amend. V

Parents may not be compelled to provide testimonial statements that could incriminate them in criminal proceedings. Invocation of the Fifth Amendment may not be penalized in dependency proceedings. Production of a child pursuant to a lawful custodial order does not waive testimonial protections.

- [Lefkowitz v. Cunningham \(431 U.S. 801 \(1977\)\)](#)
- [Baltimore City Dept. of Social Services v. Bouknight \(493 U.S. 549 \(1990\)\)](#)

4. FEDERAL COMPLIANCE LAYER

Federal statutory floor conditioning state eligibility for child welfare funding. These statutes do not grant removal authority; they constrain and condition state action and funding under the Supremacy Clause.

Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA)

42 U.S.C. §§ 5101–5116 (PL 93-247)

- [CAPTA Definitions](#)
- [State Grants](#)
- [Citizen Review Panels](#)

Establishes minimum federal standards for state child abuse reporting, intake, and oversight systems as a condition of receiving CAPTA state grants.

Key Provisions:

- Mandatory reporter categories must be defined by state law
- Statewide intake and reporting systems required
- Good-faith immunity for reporters

Applies to: Intake #1, Intake #2, Intake #6, Intake #7, Intake #8, Intake #10

Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA)

42 U.S.C. §§ 671–675 (PL 105-89)

- [State Plan Requirements](#)
- [Foster Care Payments](#)
- [Case Plan Definitions](#)

Conditions Title IV-E funding on state compliance with reasonable-efforts findings, judicial oversight, and permanency timelines. ASFA does not itself create removal authority.

Key Provisions:

- Judicial finding of reasonable efforts prior to removal unless statutory excepti
- Reasonable efforts toward reunification required
- Permanency hearing within 12 months of foster placement

Applies to: Intake #12, Decision #4, Decision #5, Action #1, Action #3, Outcome #1, Outcome #2, Outcome #3

Social Security Act Title IV-E

42 U.S.C. §§ 670–679c ()

- [State Plan Requirements](#)
- [Foster Care Payments](#)
- [Case Plan Definitions](#)

Primary federal reimbursement mechanism for foster care, adoption assistance, and kinship guardianship. Funding is conditioned on strict compliance with judicial and procedural safeguards.

Key Provisions:

- Foster care maintenance payments
- Adoption and guardianship assistance
- Judicial determinations required for eligibility

Applies to: ALL

Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)

25 U.S.C. §§ 1901–1963 (PL 95-608)

- [Congressional Findings](#)
- [Pending Court Proceedings](#)
- [Placement Preferences](#)

Establishes mandatory federal standards for proceedings involving Indian (Native American) children, superseding state law where applicable.

Key Provisions:

- Tribal jurisdiction and transfer rights
- Active efforts requirement (heightened standard)
- Qualified expert witness testimony

Applies to: Intake #11, Decision #4, Decision #5, Action #1, Outcome #1, Outcome #2

Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)

42 U.S.C. §§ 671–679b (PL 115-123)

- [Prevention Services](#)
- [QRTP Requirements](#)

Reorients federal funding toward prevention services and family preservation, reducing reliance on congregate care.

Key Provisions:

- IV-E funding for prevention services
- Evidence-based service requirements
- Kinship placement prioritization

Applies to: Intake #5, Decision #3, Action #4, Outcome #1

Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act (PKPA)

28 U.S.C. § 1738A (PL 96-611)

- [Full Faith and Credit for Custody Determinations](#)

Requires states to honor custody determinations from other states. In January 2025, a White House executive order directed agencies to consider applying PKPA to investigate 'sanctuary states' that fac

Key Provisions:

- States must enforce valid custody orders from other states
- Home state has priority jurisdiction
- Prevents forum shopping in custody disputes

Applies to: Decision #4, Action #3, Failure #1

5. CALIFORNIA STATE LAW ANALYSIS

VERIFIED CURRENT | SCAN 2023v1 | 20/20 nodes

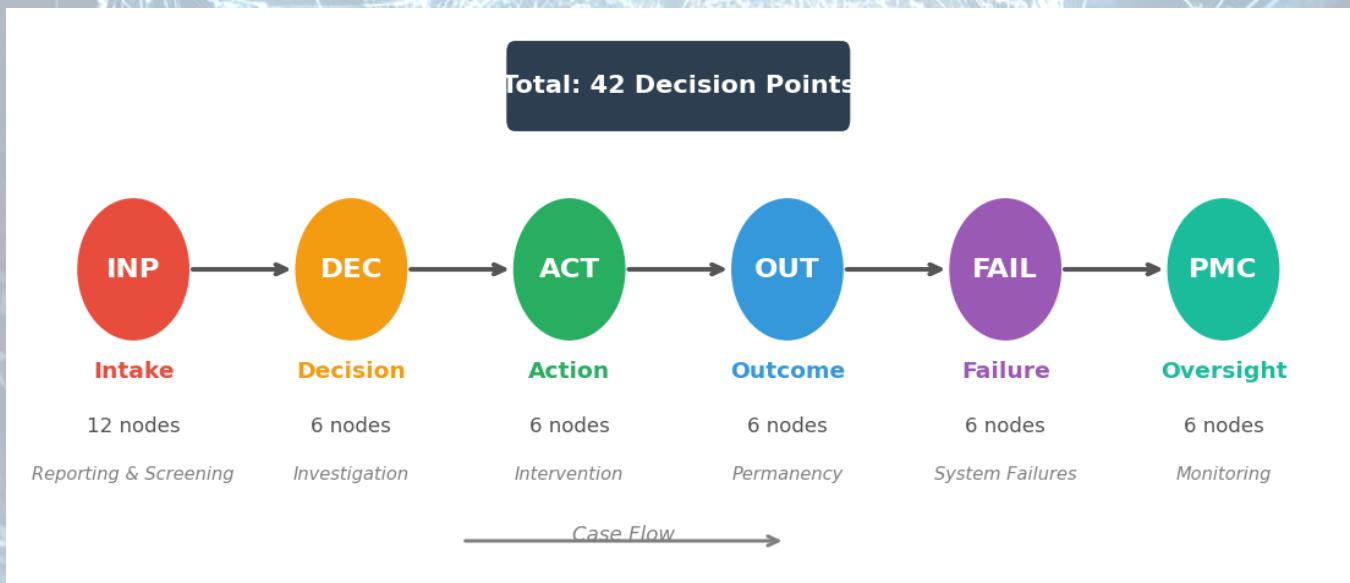
Maltreatment Definitions

Type	State Definition
Physical Abuse	N/A
Neglect	N/A
Sexual Abuse	N/A
Emotional Abuse	N/A

System Structure

Aspect	Configuration
Administrative Type	County Administered (State Supervised)
Evidence Standard	Preponderance of Evidence
Mandatory Reporters	N/A
Alternative Response	N/A

6. DECISION CHAIN ANALYSIS



Node Summary

Family	Nodes	Description
Intake (INP)	12	Report intake and screening decisions
Decision (DEC)	6	Investigation and substantiation decisions
Action (ACT)	6	Intervention actions and services
Outcome (OUT)	6	Case outcomes and permanency
Failure (FAIL)	6	System failures and judicial reversals
Project Milk Carton (PMC)	6	Federal oversight and monitoring
TOTAL	42	All decision points

INTAKE NODES (INP)

Report intake and screening decisions

■ Intake #1: Mandatory Report

Mandatory reporters (designated professionals) must report suspected child abuse or neglect. Federal law sets the funding and policy floor (CAPTA) and mandates reporter frameworks on federal lands/facilities (VICAA).

Resources: [Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse and N](#)

State Law: [California - Penal Code §§ 11164–11174 \(CANRA – Child Abuse](#) | [California - Welfare & Institutions Code § 300 et seq. \(Juve](#)

Federal: [CAPTA Cornell](#) | [CAPTA House](#) | [CAPTA PDF](#) | [VICAA Cornell](#)

Timelines: Initial response time: 24-72 hours; Investigation completion: 30-60 days

■■ Intake #2: Voluntary / Third-Party Report

Any person (not just mandated reporters) may submit a voluntary report to child-protection authorities. CAPTA requires states to maintain mechanisms for intake, confidentiality, and immunity policies tied to federal funding.

Resources: [Definitions of Child Abuse and Neglect](#)

State Law: [California - Penal Code §§ 11164–11174 \(CANRA – Child Abuse](#) | [California - Welfare & Institutions Code § 300 et seq. \(Juve](#)

Federal: [CAPTA Cornell](#) | [CAPTA House](#) | [CAPTA PDF](#)

Timelines: Initial response time: 24-72 hours; Investigation completion: 30-60 days

■ Intake #3: Law-Enforcement Referral

A law-enforcement agency encounters suspected maltreatment (e.g., during a domestic call or arrest) and refers to CPS. Federal child-abuse infrastructure promotes coordinated investigations via Children's Advocacy Centers.

Resources: [Making and Screening Reports of Child Ab](#)

State Law: [California - Penal Code §§ 11164–11174 \(CANRA – Child Abuse](#) | [California - Welfare & Institutions Code § 300 et seq. \(Juve](#)

Federal: [VICAA Cornell](#) | [VICAA House](#) | [ASFA PLAW](#) | [ASFA PDF](#)

Timelines: Initial response time: 24-72 hours; Investigation completion: 30-60 days

■■ Intake #4: Court-Ordered Referral

A judge orders CPS to investigate or assess during civil/criminal proceedings. Federal funding statutes (ASFA/IV-E) tether court findings to child-welfare actions, embedding judicial oversight into intake-to-case flow.

State Law: [California - Penal Code §§ 11164–11174 \(CANRA – Child Abuse](#) | [California - Welfare & Institutions Code § 300 et seq. \(Juve](#)

Federal: [ASFA PLAW](#) | [ASFA PDF](#) | [SSA IV E Cornell](#)

Timelines: Initial response time: 24-72 hours; Investigation completion: 30-60 days

■ Intake #5: Self-Report / Guardian Request

A parent/guardian/child requests help without a substantiated allegation. FFPSA created a federal pathway for prevention services to avert removal and stabilize families before a case escalates.

State Law: [California - Penal Code §§ 11164–11174 \(CANRA – Child Abuse](#) | [California - Welfare & Institutions Code § 300 et seq. \(Juve](#)

Federal: [FFPSA PLAW](#) | [FFPSA PDF](#) | [FFPSA ChildWelfareGo](#)

Timelines: Initial response time: 24-72 hours; Investigation completion: 30-60 days

❖■ Intake #6: Anonymous Tip / Hotline

Reports via state hotlines (anonymous or confidential). CAPTA conditions funding on operating intake systems with confidentiality and good-faith protections.

Resources: [Child Witnesses to Domestic Violence](#) | [Definitions of Domestic Violence](#)

State Law: [California - Penal Code §§ 11164–11174 \(CANRA – Child Abuse\)](#) | [California - Welfare & Institutions Code § 300 et seq. \(Juve\)](#)

Federal: [CAPTA Cornell](#) | [CAPTA House](#) | [CAPTA PDF](#)

Timelines: Initial response time: 24-72 hours; Investigation completion: 30-60 days

■ Intake #7: Medical Disclosure

Healthcare encounters that reveal suspected abuse or neglect trigger reporting obligations. Federal law governs mandatory reporting in federal facilities and coordination with state systems.

Resources: [Immunity for Persons Who Report Child Ab](#)

State Law: [California - Penal Code §§ 11164–11174 \(CANRA – Child Abuse\)](#) | [California - Welfare & Institutions Code § 300 et seq. \(Juve\)](#)

Federal: [CAPTA Cornell](#) | [VICAA Cornell](#)

Timelines: Initial response time: 24-72 hours; Investigation completion: 30-60 days

■ Intake #8: Educational Disclosure

Educators/school staff observing indicators of abuse/neglect report to CPS under state mandatory-reporter lists built on the federal CAPTA floor.

Resources: [Cross-Reporting Among Agencies that Resp](#)

State Law: [California - Penal Code §§ 11164–11174 \(CANRA – Child Abuse\)](#) | [California - Welfare & Institutions Code § 300 et seq. \(Juve\)](#)

Federal: [CAPTA Cornell](#) | [CAPTA House](#)

Timelines: Initial response time: 24-72 hours; Investigation completion: 30-60 days

■ Intake #9: Systemic Audit / Oversight Trigger

Findings by federal/state oversight (CFSR reviews, OIG audits, child-fatality commissions) can initiate investigations or corrective actions that open CPS involvement.

State Law: [California - Penal Code §§ 11164–11174 \(CANRA – Child Abuse\)](#) | [California - Welfare & Institutions Code § 300 et seq. \(Juve\)](#)

Federal: [POKA PLAW](#) | [POKA PDF](#) | [CFSR CFR](#) | [CFSR eCFR](#)

Timelines: Initial response time: 24-72 hours; Investigation completion: 30-60 days

■ Intake #10: Agency Escalation (Screening → Investigation)

An intake screen is elevated to a formal investigation/assessment under state criteria. CAPTA and CFSR establish the federal expectations for screening, timelines, and investigative quality.

State Law: [California - Penal Code §§ 11164–11174 \(CANRA – Child Abuse\)](#) | [California - Welfare & Institutions Code § 300 et seq. \(Juve\)](#)

Federal: [CAPTA Cornell](#) | [CFSR CFR](#)

Timelines: Initial response time: 24-72 hours; Investigation completion: 30-60 days

■■ Intake #11: Federal / Tribal Jurisdiction Trigger

Cases arising on federal lands/facilities or involving Indian children invoke federal/tribal jurisdictional rules (VICAA for federal facilities; ICWA for Indian children and tribal preference/jurisdiction).

Resources: [Responding to Child Victims of Human Tra](#) | [Definitions of Human Trafficking](#)

State Law: [California - Penal Code §§ 11164–11174 \(CANRA – Child Abuse\)](#) | [California - Welfare & Institutions Code § 300 et seq. \(Juve\)](#)

Federal: [VICAA Cornell](#) | [ICWA Cornell](#) | [ICWA PDF](#)

Timelines: Initial response time: 24-72 hours; Investigation completion: 30-60 days

■ Intake #12: Emergency / Protective Custody

Immediate state action to protect a child in imminent danger. Federal law (ASFA/IV-E) ties funding to court findings on reasonable efforts, and constitutional limits (due process, 4th/14th Amendments) constrain warrantless removals.

State Law: [California - Penal Code §§ 11164–11174 \(CANRA – Child Abuse\)](#) | [California - Welfare & Institutions Code § 300 et seq. \(Juve\)](#)

Federal: [ASFA PLAW](#) | [ASFA PDF](#) | [SSA IV E Cornell](#) | [CFSR CFR](#)

Timelines: Initial response time: 24-72 hours; Investigation completion: 30-60 days



DECISION NODES (DEC)

Investigation and substantiation decisions

■ Decision #1: Screen-Out / Unfounded at Intake

CPS screens out a report (no investigation) or closes as unfounded after minimal review. Federal law (CAPTA) conditions funding on operating screening criteria and recordkeeping; federal reviews (CFSR) assess decision quality.

Resources: [Use of Safety and Risk Assessment in Chi](#)

State Law: [California - Penal Code §§ 11164–11174 \(CANRA – Child Abuse\)](#) | [California - Welfare & Institutions Code § 300 et seq. \(Juve\)](#)

Federal: [CAPTA Cornell](#) | [CAPTA House](#) | [CAPTA PDF](#) | [CFSR CFR](#)

Timelines: Safety decision: Immediate upon contact; Disposition finding: 30-60 days

■■ Decision #2: Accept for Investigation / Assessment

CPS accepts a report for investigation/assessment. CAPTA sets the floor for investigation procedures; CFSR evaluates timeliness, safety, and decision quality.

State Law: [California - Penal Code §§ 11164–11174 \(CANRA – Child Abuse\)](#) | [California - Welfare & Institutions Code § 300 et seq. \(Juve\)](#)

Federal: [CAPTA Cornell](#) | [CFSR CFR](#)

Timelines: Safety decision: Immediate upon contact; Disposition finding: 30-60 days

■ Decision #3: Substantiated / Founded Finding

Agency makes a substantiated (founded) finding of abuse/neglect. This decision often unlocks court petitions, service mandates, and federal reporting duties.

Resources: [Disclosure of Confidential Child Abuse a](#)

State Law: [California - Penal Code §§ 11164–11174 \(CANRA – Child Abuse\)](#) | [California - Welfare & Institutions Code § 300 et seq. \(Juve\)](#)

Federal: [CAPTA Cornell](#) | [CFSR eCFR](#)

Timelines: Safety decision: Immediate upon contact; Disposition finding: 30-60 days

■ Decision #4: Emergency Removal Decision

Agency decides to remove a child immediately due to imminent danger prior to a court order. Federal law (ASFA/IV-E) requires later court findings on reasonable efforts; constitutional limits (due process; search/seizure) apply.

State Law: [California - Penal Code §§ 11164–11174 \(CANRA – Child Abuse\)](#) | [California - Welfare & Institutions Code § 300 et seq. \(Juve\)](#)

Federal: [ASFA PLAW](#) | [ASFA PDF](#) | [SSA IV E Cornell](#) | [CFSR CFR](#)

Timelines: Safety decision: Immediate upon contact; Disposition finding: 30-60 days

■ Decision #5: File Petition / Open Dependency Case

Agency files a court petition to open a dependency (or similar) case. Federal funding frameworks (IV-E/ASFA) link court oversight, reasonable-efforts findings, and permanency timelines to downstream actions.

Resources: [Determining the Best Interests of the Ch](#)

State Law: [California - Penal Code §§ 11164–11174 \(CANRA – Child Abuse\)](#) | [California - Welfare & Institutions Code § 300 et seq. \(Juve\)](#)

Federal: [SSA IV E Cornell](#) | [ASFA PLAW](#) | [ASFA PDF](#) | [CFSR eCFR](#)

Timelines: Safety decision: Immediate upon contact; Disposition finding: 30-60 days

■ Decision #6: Differential Response / Alternative Response (No Petition)

Agency chooses Differential Response (DR)/Alternative Response: engage services without court petition when safety permits. FFPSA and IV-B/IV-E prevention funding support voluntary, front-end help to avert removals.

State Law: [California - Penal Code §§ 11164–11174 \(CANRA – Child Abuse\)](#) | [California - Welfare & Institutions Code § 300 et seq. \(Juve\)](#)

Federal: [FFPSA PLAW](#) | [FFPSA PDF](#) | [SSA IV B Cornell](#) | [SSA IV E Cornell](#)

Timelines: Safety decision: Immediate upon contact; Disposition finding: 30-60 days



ACTION NODES (ACT)

Intervention actions and services

■ Action #1: Voluntary Services

Family agrees to a voluntary service plan—counseling, substance-use treatment, parenting classes—designed to correct conditions without court compulsion. Federal law prioritizes family preservation through prevention and support services.

State Law: [California - Penal Code §§ 11164–11174 \(CANRA – Child Abuse\)](#) | [California - Welfare & Institutions Code § 300 et seq. \(Juve\)](#)

Federal: [FFPSA PLAW](#) | [FFPSA PDF](#) | [SSA IV B Cornell](#)

Timelines: Emergency removal hearing: 24-72 hours; Case plan development: 30-60 days

■■ Action #2: Court-Ordered Services

Court orders a service plan or supervision period following a substantiated finding. The goal is rehabilitation and reunification consistent with federal 'reasonable-efforts' requirements.

State Law: [California - Penal Code §§ 11164–11174 \(CANRA – Child Abuse\)](#) | [California - Welfare & Institutions Code § 300 et seq. \(Juve\)](#)

Federal: [ASFA PLAW](#) | [ASFA PDF](#) | [SSA IV E Cornell](#)

Timelines: Emergency removal hearing: 24-72 hours; Case plan development: 30-60 days

■ Action #3: Foster Care Placement

The child is removed from the home and placed in foster care under court order or emergency authority. Federal statutes tie funding to safety findings, judicial oversight, and permanency planning.

State Law: [California - Penal Code §§ 11164–11174 \(CANRA – Child Abuse\)](#) | [California - Welfare & Institutions Code § 300 et seq. \(Juve\)](#)

Federal: [ASFA PDF](#) | [SSA IV E Cornell](#) | [CFSR CFR](#)

Timelines: Emergency removal hearing: 24-72 hours; Case plan development: 30-60 days

■■■■■ Action #4: Kinship Placement

Agency places a child with relatives or kin caregivers instead of non-relative foster care. Federal law favors kinship care as least-restrictive, family-preserving placement.

Resources: [Case Planning for Families Involved with](#) | [Background Checks for Prospective Foster](#)

State Law: [California - Penal Code §§ 11164–11174 \(CANRA – Child Abuse\)](#) | [California - Welfare & Institutions Code § 300 et seq. \(Juve\)](#)

Federal: [FCSIAA PLAW](#) | [FCSIAA PDF](#) | [SSA IV E Cornell](#)

Timelines: Emergency removal hearing: 24-72 hours; Case plan development: 30-60 days

■ Action #5: Protective Order

Court issues a protective or restraining order to prevent contact, remove abuser, or ensure safety without removing the child. Federal law leaves implementation to states but funds protection efforts through CAPTA and IV-B.

State Law: [California - Penal Code §§ 11164–11174 \(CANRA – Child Abuse\)](#) | [California - Welfare & Institutions Code § 300 et seq. \(Juve\)](#)

Federal: [CAPTA Cornell](#) | [SSA IV B Cornell](#)

Timelines: Emergency removal hearing: 24-72 hours; Case plan development: 30-60 days

■ Action #6: Emergency Medical/Psychological Care

Agency or court authorizes immediate medical or psychological care when delay endangers life or safety. Federal statutes support medical access and confidentiality exceptions for child protection.

State Law: [California - Penal Code §§ 11164–11174 \(CANRA – Child Abuse\)](#) | [California - Welfare & Institutions Code § 300 et seq. \(Juve\)](#)

Federal: [CAPTA Cornell](#) | [VICAA Cornell](#)

Timelines: Emergency removal hearing: 24-72 hours; Case plan development: 30-60 days



OUTCOME NODES (OUT)

Case outcomes and permanency

■ Outcome #1: Reunification

Child safely reunified with parent or guardian, case closed. Federal policy treats reunification as the preferred outcome once risk factors are mitigated.

Resources: [Court Hearings for Permanent Placement](#) | [Consent to Adoption](#) | [Access to Adoption Records](#)

State Law: [California - Penal Code §§ 11164–11174 \(CANRA – Child Abuse\)](#) | [California - Welfare & Institutions Code § 300 et seq. \(Juve\)](#)

Federal: [ASFA PLAW](#) | [ASFA PDF](#) | [SSA IV E Cornell](#)

Timelines: Permanency hearing: 12 months; TPR filing: 15 of 22 months

■ Outcome #2: Termination of Parental Rights / Adoption

Parental rights terminated and child adopted. Federal law prioritizes timely permanency for children when reunification is not viable.

Resources: [Extension of Foster Care Beyond Age 18](#) | [Adoption and Guardianship Assistance](#)

State Law: [California - Penal Code §§ 11164–11174 \(CANRA – Child Abuse\)](#) | [California - Welfare & Institutions Code § 300 et seq. \(Juve\)](#)

Federal: [ASFA PLAW](#) | [SSA IV E Cornell](#)

Timelines: Permanency hearing: 12 months; TPR filing: 15 of 22 months

■■■■■ Outcome #3: Guardianship / Kinship Permanency

Child achieves permanency through legal guardianship or kinship care. Federal programs provide funding parity with adoption for approved relatives.

Resources: [Grounds for Involuntary Termination of P](#)

State Law: [California - Penal Code §§ 11164–11174 \(CANRA – Child Abuse\)](#) | [California - Welfare & Institutions Code § 300 et seq. \(Juve\)](#)

Federal: [FCSIAA PLAW](#) | [SSA IV E Cornell](#)

Timelines: Permanency hearing: 12 months; TPR filing: 15 of 22 months

■ Outcome #4: Extended Foster Care / Aging Out

Youth remains in extended foster care or receives transitional services after age 18 under federal programs promoting independence.

State Law: [California - Penal Code §§ 11164–11174 \(CANRA – Child Abuse\)](#) | [California - Welfare & Institutions Code § 300 et seq. \(Juve\)](#)

Federal: [CFCIA PLAW](#) | [FCSIAA PLAW](#)

Timelines: Permanency hearing: 12 months; TPR filing: 15 of 22 months

■■ Outcome #5: Case Dismissal

Case dismissed due to unsubstantiated evidence or court determination that allegations not proven. Federal oversight requires accurate recording of such closures for audit and funding compliance.

State Law: [California - Penal Code §§ 11164–11174 \(CANRA – Child Abuse\)](#) | [California - Welfare & Institutions Code § 300 et seq. \(Juve\)](#)

Federal: [CAPTA Cornell](#) | [CFSR CFR](#)

Timelines: Permanency hearing: 12 months; TPR filing: 15 of 22 months

■■ Outcome #6: Child Fatality / Serious Injury

Case results in child fatality or serious injury, triggering mandatory federal and state review. Data and lessons inform systemic reform.

State Law: [California - Penal Code §§ 11164–11174 \(CANRA – Child Abuse\)](#) | [California - Welfare & Institutions Code § 300 et seq. \(Juve\)](#)

Federal: [POKA PLAW](#) | [CAPTA Cornell](#)

Timelines: Permanency hearing: 12 months; TPR filing: 15 of 22 months



FAILURE NODES (FAIL)

System failures and judicial reversals

■■ Failure #1: Court Reversal of Agency Decision

A court reverses or vacates a CPS or agency decision due to procedural error, insufficient evidence, or constitutional violation. Federal review data (CFSR, ASFA) tracks judicial determinations on reasonable efforts and due process.

State Law: [California - Penal Code §§ 11164–11174 \(CANRA – Child Abuse\)](#) | [California - Welfare & Institutions Code § 300 et seq. \(Juve\)](#)

Federal: [ASFA PDF](#) | [CFSR CFR](#)

Timelines: Appeal deadline: 30 days; 1983 statute of limitations: 2-3 years

■ Failure #2: Unlawful Removal

A child is removed without exigency or warrant, violating constitutional rights. Federal courts treat such removals as seizures under the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments, actionable via §1983.

State Law: [California - Penal Code §§ 11164–11174 \(CANRA – Child Abuse\)](#) | [California - Welfare & Institutions Code § 300 et seq. \(Juve\)](#)

Federal: [ASFA PDF](#) | [SSA IV E Cornell](#)

Timelines: Appeal deadline: 30 days; 1983 statute of limitations: 2-3 years

■ Failure #3: Federal Compliance Failure

A state agency fails to meet federal child-welfare performance standards, triggering funding penalties or corrective action under the CFSR or Single Audit Act.

State Law: [California - Penal Code §§ 11164–11174 \(CANRA – Child Abuse\)](#) | [California - Welfare & Institutions Code § 300 et seq. \(Juve\)](#)

Federal: [CFSR CFR](#) | [SAA Cornell](#) | [IGA Cornell](#)

Timelines: Appeal deadline: 30 days; 1983 statute of limitations: 2-3 years

■■ Failure #4: Child Death Under Agency Supervision

A child dies or suffers serious harm while under agency supervision, constituting systemic failure. Federal law mandates disclosure and review to identify causes and reforms.

State Law: [California - Penal Code §§ 11164–11174 \(CANRA – Child Abuse\)](#) | [California - Welfare & Institutions Code § 300 et seq. \(Juve\)](#)

Federal: [POKA PLAW](#) | [CAPTA Cornell](#)

Timelines: Appeal deadline: 30 days; 1983 statute of limitations: 2-3 years

■ Failure #5: Discrimination / Retaliation

Agency or actor engages in discriminatory or retaliatory action, violating civil-rights or placement-equality provisions. Federal statutes prohibit race, religion, sex, or disability bias in placements or investigations.

State Law: [California - Penal Code §§ 11164–11174 \(CANRA – Child Abuse\)](#) | [California - Welfare & Institutions Code § 300 et seq. \(Juve\)](#)

Federal: [MEPA PLAW](#) | [CivilRights Cornell](#)

Timelines: Appeal deadline: 30 days; 1983 statute of limitations: 2-3 years

■■ Failure #6: Disclosure / Transparency Failure

Agency fails to disclose required data or reports, obstructing transparency. Federal statutes require public reporting under CAPTA, FOIA, and Sunshine provisions.

State Law: [California - Penal Code §§ 11164–11174 \(CANRA – Child Abuse\)](#) | [California - Welfare & Institutions Code § 300 et seq. \(Juve\)](#)

Federal: [CAPTA Cornell](#) | [FOIA Cornell](#) | [Sunshine Cornell](#)

Timelines: Appeal deadline: 30 days; 1983 statute of limitations: 2-3 years



PROJECT MILK CARTON NODES (PMC)

Federal oversight and monitoring

■ PMC Oversight #1: CFSR Monitoring

Federal Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSR) monitor state performance on safety, permanency, and well-being.

Project Milk Carton flags states that repeatedly fail or never publish CFSR improvement plans.

State Law: [California - Penal Code §§ 11164–11174 \(CANRA – Child Abuse\)](#) | [California - Welfare & Institutions Code § 300 et seq. \(Juve\)](#)

Federal: [CFSR CFR](#) | [ACF CFSR](#)

Timelines: Missing child report: Immediate; NCMEC notification: 24 hours

■ PMC Oversight #2: OIG / Financial Audit

Federal OIG investigations and Single Audit Act reviews track misuse of child-welfare funds. Project Milk Carton aggregates audit findings and highlights unresolved repeat deficiencies.

State Law: [California - Penal Code §§ 11164–11174 \(CANRA – Child Abuse\)](#) | [California - Welfare & Institutions Code § 300 et seq. \(Juve\)](#)

Federal: [IGA Cornell](#) | [SAA Cornell](#)

Timelines: Missing child report: Immediate; NCMEC notification: 24 hours

■■ PMC Oversight #3: Citizen Review Panels

CAPTA §5106a(c) requires every state to maintain Citizen Review Panels that evaluate CPS policies. Project Milk Carton checks whether panels are active, independent, and publicly reporting.

State Law: [California - Penal Code §§ 11164–11174 \(CANRA – Child Abuse\)](#) | [California - Welfare & Institutions Code § 300 et seq. \(Juve\)](#)

Federal: [CAPTA Cornell](#)

Timelines: Missing child report: Immediate; NCMEC notification: 24 hours

■ PMC Oversight #4: Fatality Review Commission

The Protect Our Kids Act (PL 112-275) created a national commission to study child-fatality prevention. Project Milk Carton cross-references its findings with state fatality data to expose non-implementation.

Resources: [Responding to Youth Missing from Foster](#)

State Law: [California - Penal Code §§ 11164–11174 \(CANRA – Child Abuse\)](#) | [California - Welfare & Institutions Code § 300 et seq. \(Juve\)](#)

Federal: [POKA PLAW](#)

Timelines: Missing child report: Immediate; NCMEC notification: 24 hours

■ PMC Oversight #5: FOIA / Transparency

Federal transparency statutes—FOIA and Sunshine Act—require disclosure of government data. Project Milk Carton promotes FOIA requests and public dashboards for child-welfare records.

State Law: [California - Penal Code §§ 11164–11174 \(CANRA – Child Abuse\)](#) | [California - Welfare & Institutions Code § 300 et seq. \(Juve\)](#)

Federal: [FOIA Cornell](#) | [Sunshine Cornell](#)

Timelines: Missing child report: Immediate; NCMEC notification: 24 hours

■ PMC Oversight #6: Project Milk Carton AI Analysis

The Project Milk Carton AI Layer performs cross-analysis of federal and state chains to identify weak points, policy gaps, and non-compliance. This is the citizen feedback mechanism for accountability and reform.

State Law: [California - Penal Code §§ 11164–11174 \(CANRA – Child Abuse\)](#) | [California - Welfare & Institutions Code § 300 et seq. \(Juve\)](#)

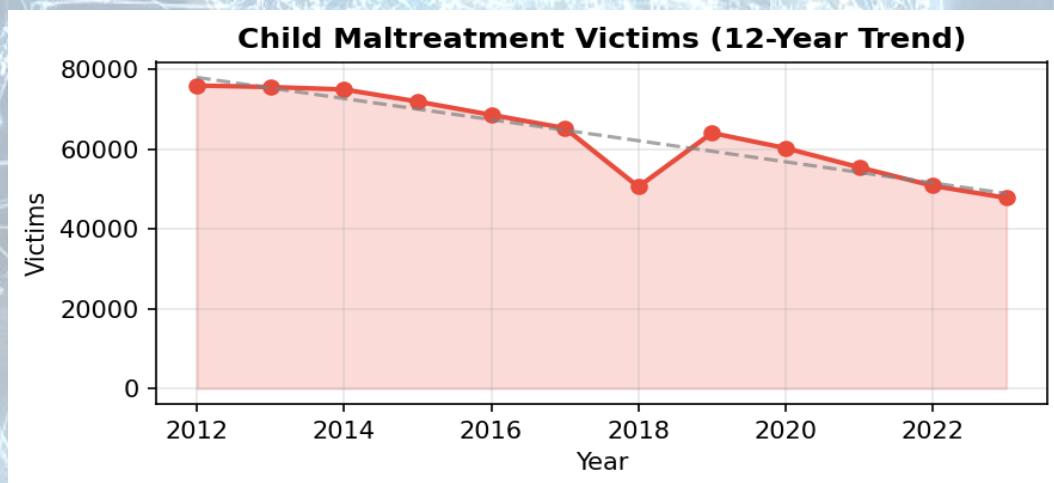
Federal: [PMC ProjectSite](#)

Timelines: Missing child report: Immediate; NCMEC notification: 24 hours

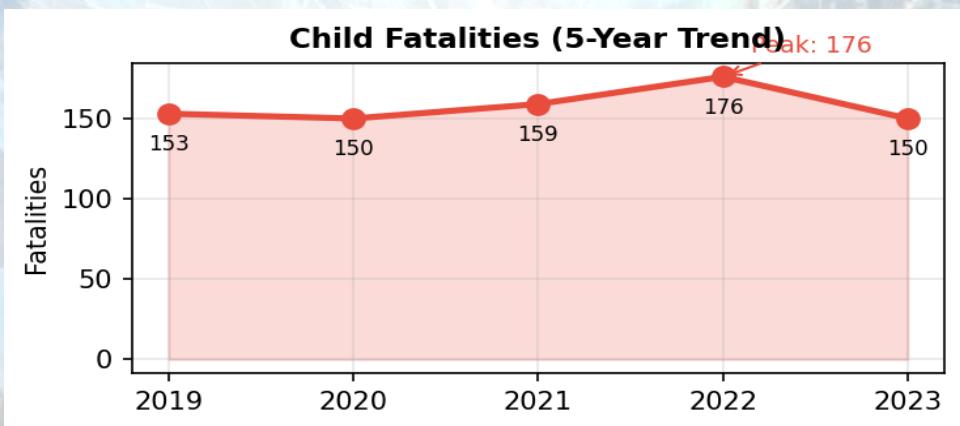


7. CHILD WELFARE DATA ANALYTICS

7.1 Victim Trends



7.2 Child Fatalities (5-Year Trend)



7.3 Maltreatment Types

Maltreatment type data not available.

7.4 Caregiver Risk Factors

Risk factor data not available.

7.5 Perpetrator Relationships

Perpetrator relationship data not available.

7.6 Victimization by Race/Ethnicity

Race/ethnicity victimization data not available.

7.7 National Comparison

Metric	Value
State Victims (2023)	47,824
National Rank	#2 of 52
Above/Below Average	Above
State Rate (per 1,000)	22.90

8. CRIME STATISTICS

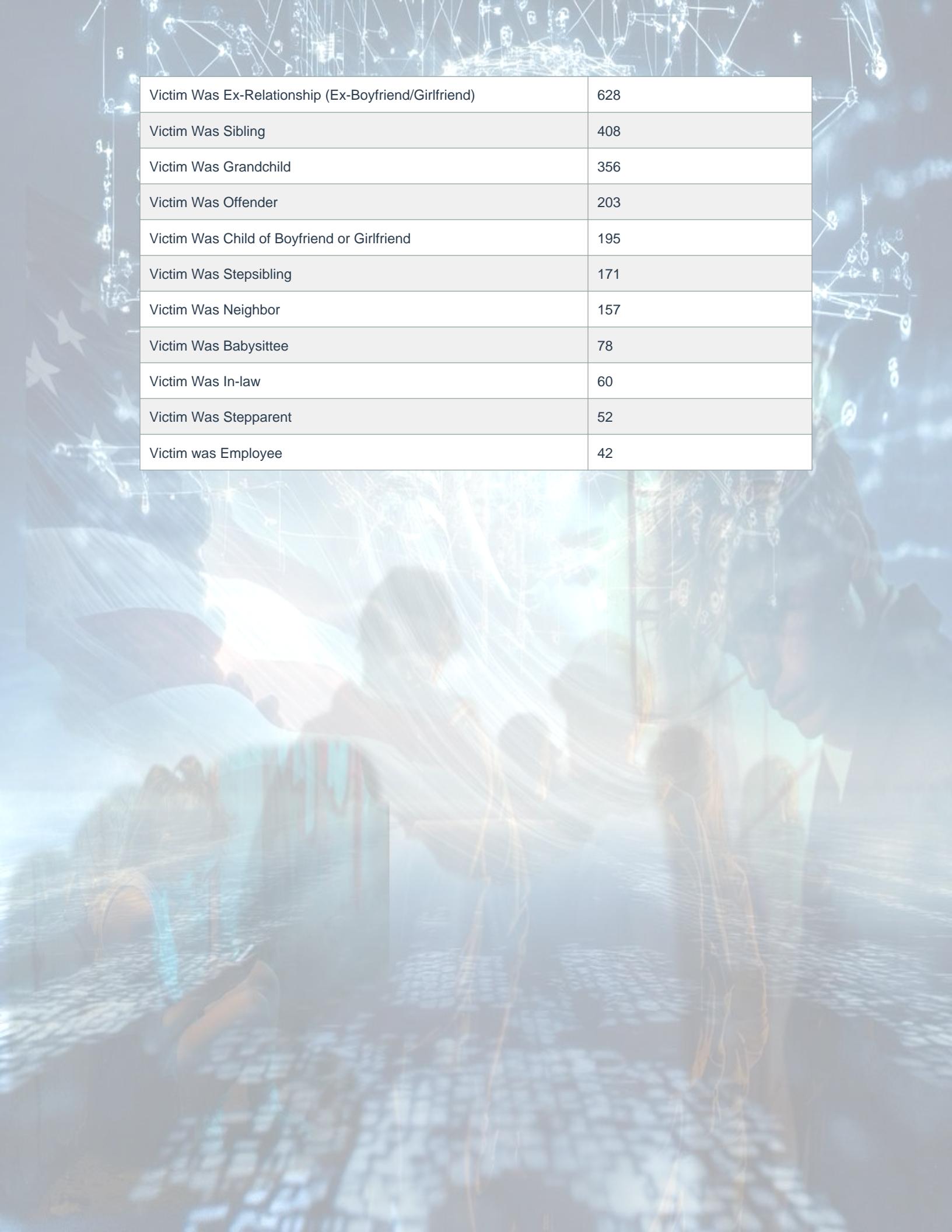
FBI NIBRS data reveals **14,196** documented crimes against children in California. This includes **187** human trafficking cases.

Offense Types (Complete)

Offense	Count	Avg Victim Age
Criminal Sexual Contact	5,591	12.2
Rape	2,564	14.1
Kidnapping/Abduction	2,264	13.3
Statutory Rape	1,313	15.4
Sodomy	1,186	13.1
Sexual Assault With An Object	709	12.9
Pornography/Obscene Material	374	13.8
Human Trafficking, Commercial Sex Acts	129	15.2
Human Trafficking, Involuntary Servitude	58	15.9
Incest	8	15.0

Perpetrator Relationships (Complete)

Relationship	Count
Relationship Unknown	2,098
Victim Was Acquaintance	2,071
Victim Was Child	1,520
Victim Was Boyfriend/Girlfriend	1,266
Victim was Otherwise Known	1,209
Victim Was Other Family Member	1,198
Victim Was Stranger	983
Victim Was Friend	827
Victim Was Stepchild	634



Victim Was Ex-Relationship (Ex-Boyfriend/Girlfriend)	628
Victim Was Sibling	408
Victim Was Grandchild	356
Victim Was Offender	203
Victim Was Child of Boyfriend or Girlfriend	195
Victim Was Stepsibling	171
Victim Was Neighbor	157
Victim Was Babysittee	78
Victim Was In-law	60
Victim Was Stepparent	52
Victim was Employee	42

9. MISSING CHILDREN

316 children are currently listed as missing in California according to NCMEC records. Complete listing follows.

Complete Missing Children Registry (316 children)

Name	Age	City	Missing Since	Contact Agency
Shaun Loyer	16	SAN CLEMENTE	9/7/2024	Orange County Sheriff's O...
Byron Quej Caz	18	MORENO VALLEY	9/7/2023	Riverside County Sheriff'...
Nya Edwards	17	HAYWARD	9/6/2023	Hayward Police Department
Cameron Edwards	17	VAN NUYS	9/6/2022	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Lilybeth Salgado-Sotelo	16	Lancaster	9/5/2023	Los Angeles County Sherif...
Sydney West	23	San Francisco	9/30/2020	San Francisco Police Depa...
Aria Maresca	11	SAN PEDRO	9/29/2018	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Julia Maresca	6	SAN PEDRO	9/29/2018	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Amanda Mendoza	6	Bell Gardens	9/26/2018	Bell Gardens Police Depar...
Ilias Badys	18	Sacramento	9/26/2009	Sacramento County Sheriff...
Alexa Gandara	17	Orange	9/22/2024	Orange County Sheriff's O...
London Richie	15	ORANGEVALE	9/20/2024	Sacramento County Sheriff...
Maricela Hernandez Pec	22	LOS ANGELES	9/14/2020	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Claudia Dormes Reyes	19	SAN JACINTO	9/12/2020	Riverside County Sheriff'...
Flora Ical Pan	16	Moreno Valley	9/1/2023	Riverside County Sheriff'...
Joliet Cedano	18	Lake Los Angeles	9/11/2006	Los Angeles County Sherif...
Aiyana Alcerro-Ramirez	15	LOS ANGELES	9/10/2014	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Camilo Lugo	3	San Diego	8/9/2023	Clay County Sheriff's Off...
Dublas Garcia Perez	17	MORENO VALLEY	8/3/2022	Moreno Valley Police Depa...
Mason Chen	8	SANTA CLARA	8/3/2020	Union City Police Departm...
Tomasa Pec Cau	19	SIMI VALLEY	8/29/2022	Simi Valley Police Depart...

Tyler Mirabelli	17	FAIR OAKS	8/28/2020	Sacramento County Sheriff...
Saria Hamilton	15	SACRAMENTO	8/21/2024	Sacramento Police Departm...
Belinda Gonzalez Granados	17	Wasco	8/17/2021	Kern County Sheriff's Off...
Nya Jingles	17	YORBA LINDA	8/12/2022	Orange County Sheriff's O...
Angie Cortez	15	SAN FERNANDO	8/1/2011	San Fernando Police Depar...
Andy Cortez	16	SAN FERNANDO	8/1/2011	San Fernando Police Depar...
Lydia White	20	LAWNDALE	8/1/2004	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Hassani Campbell	21	OAKLAND	8/10/2009	Oakland Police Department
Power Hasan Stewart	10	Compton	7/9/2019	Los Angeles County Sherif...
Promise Stewart	8	Compton	7/9/2019	Los Angeles County Sherif...
Prestige Stewart	9	Compton	7/9/2019	Los Angeles County Sherif...
Dean Miller	7	Los Angeles	7/7/2024	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Mason Miller	10	Los Angeles	7/7/2024	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Lauren Miller	4	Los Angeles	7/7/2024	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Angela Bruno	16	Perris	7/7/2023	Riverside County Sheriff'...
D'reese Bolton	13	ANTIOCH	7/4/2023	Antioch Police Department
Ximena Granados	17	Pomona	7/30/2008	Pomona Police Department
Miguela Lopez	17	MECCA	7/28/2023	Riverside Sheriff's Depa...
Angel Rodriguez	14	CULVER CITY	7/28/2015	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Keily Rodriguez	11	CULVER CITY	7/28/2015	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Kevin Rodriguez	13	CULVER CITY	7/28/2015	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Jonathan Rodriguez Marina	16	Santa Ana	7/25/2008	Orange County District At...
Henry Rodriguez	17	Santa Ana	7/25/2008	Orange County District At...
Kelly Ditman	17	Los Molinos	7/24/2023	Tehama County Sheriff's O...
Ember Graham	10	ANDERSON	7/2/2015	Shasta County Sheriff's O...
Aubree Chavez	8	LANCASTER	7/19/2021	Los Angeles County Sherif...
SARGON ROSE	19	VISTA	7/15/2012	San Diego County District...
Shizhe Wang	15	LOS ANGELES	7/14/2024	Los Angeles Police Depart...

Angelo Miller	14	WOODLAND HILLS	7/14/2022	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Andrew Ayala	15	PALMDALE	7/14/2022	Los Angeles County Sherif...
Lorenzo Vasquez Reyes	1	Lompoc	7/13/2024	Lompoc Police Department
Esperanza Reyes Francisco	17	Lompoc	7/13/2024	Lompoc Police Department
Daphne Webb	13	OAKLAND	7/10/2013	Oakland Police Department
Adagio Talifero	20	GOLETA BEACH	6/7/2018	Santa Barbara County Sher...
Ximena Salazar	14	Los Angeles	6/29/2016	Los Angeles County Sherif...
Joe Joseph Renteria	15	LOS ANGELES	6/28/2024	Los Angeles County Sherif...
Edil Membreño banegas	24	FULLERTON	6/24/2018	Fullerton Police Departme...
Elison Ferrerra Rodas	23	FULLERTON	6/24/2017	Fullerton Police Departme...
German Vigil-Lazo	10	San Jose	6/23/2021	Santa Clara County Sherif...
Karen Rojas	9	DUARTE	6/2/2020	Los Angeles County Sherif...
Hailey Aguilera	15	MISSION HILLS	6/21/2024	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Jaylan Jones	18	OAKLAND	6/20/2022	Oakland Police Department
Hansel Quiroz	9	West Covina	6/16/2023	West Covina Police Depart...
Kaya Centeno	22	ROHNERT PARK	6/1/2012	Rohnert Park Police Depar...
Ian Garcia-Navarro	7	Los Angeles	5/8/2024	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Jonathan Bandabaila	25	OAKLAND	5/3/2019	Oakland Police Department
Dakerah Bolton	16	Lafayette	5/31/2024	Contra Costa Sheriff's Of...
Eva Barrios-Tornez	23	ADELANTO	5/28/2018	San Bernardino County She...
Geronimo Fernandez Rios	5	Van Nuys	5/26/2024	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Pearl Pinson	24	VALLEJO	5/25/2016	Solano County Sheriff's O...
Jaideep Singh	15	Los Angeles	5/23/2024	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Vidalia Sarat Tojin	17	NOVATO	5/22/2023	Novato Police Department
Anshdeep Singh	17	Los Angeles	5/21/2024	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Juan Caal Gualna	19	MORENO VALLEY	5/21/2022	Riverside County Sheriff'...
Fnu Harshpreet-Singh	16	LOS ANGELES	5/20/2024	Los Angeles Police Depart...

Miko Esparza	15	Bellflower	5/18/2024	Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Jose Alvarado	17	LOS ANGELES	5/18/2024	Los Angeles Police Department
Charlie Thompson	15	FONTANA	5/17/2024	Fontana Police Department
Maylin Diaz Morales	17	OXNARD	5/16/2023	Oxnard Police Department
Johana Crespin Lopez	20	SALINAS	5/14/2022	Salinas Police Department
Maxine Villa	15	FRESNO	5/13/2014	Fresno Police Department
Jayleene Ramos	15	Oxnard	5/1/2024	Oxnard Police Department
Dilara Aruaz	17	LOS ANGELES	4/9/2024	Los Angeles Police Department
Jenessa Rios	16	Merced	4/7/2023	Merced Police Department
Diego Ixqueactac Aju	16	Los Angeles	4/4/2023	Los Angeles Police Department
Savannah Martinez	21	Sacramento	4/4/2011	Sacramento County District Attorney's Office
Nathan Arce-Martinez	18	Sacramento	4/4/2011	Sacramento County District Attorney's Office
Sebastian Martinez	16	Sacramento	4/4/2011	Sacramento County District Attorney's Office
Maria Cordova	18	Spring Valley	4/30/2024	San Diego County Sheriff's Department
David Tzep Tulul	17	LOS ANGELES	4/30/2024	Los Angeles Police Department
Serenity Shirley	19	FRESNO	4/30/2022	Fresno County Sheriff's Office
Alexander Lindsey	18	FRENCH CAMP	4/25/2024	San Joaquin County Sheriff's Department
Noel Caal Tot	18	AZUSA	4/21/2022	Azusa Police Department
Mukenna Schroeder	17	FAIRFIELD	4/19/2024	Fairfield Police Department
Duke Flores	11	APPLE VALLEY	4/18/2019	San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department
Sebastian Gillain	12	LOS ANGELES	4/16/2019	Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office
Wendy Garcia Pedro	11	MADERA	4/15/2024	Madera Police Department
Lesvia Vasquez	20	FONTANA	4/1/2023	Fontana Police Department
Dwight Stallings	14	ELK GROVE	4/1/2011	Sacramento County Sheriff's Department
Heidy Cac Choc	17	LA VERNE	4/11/2022	La Verne Police Department
Alexandra Montes	16	Altadena	3/9/2022	Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Luis Aldana Tejada	19	VALLEJO	3/4/2023	Vallejo Police Department
Juliette Barragan	4	ROWLAND HEIGHTS	3/28/2020	Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Brenda Sanchez-Saenz	16	LAWNDALE	3/27/2023	Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Jose Padilla	17	RIVERSIDE	3/26/2024	Riverside County Sheriff'...
Jose Ortiz zuniga	25	LA VERNE	3/22/2017	La Verne Police Departmen...
Ruthey Smith	22	LOS ANGELES	3/2/2022	Long Beach Police Departm...
Melissa Braden	19	Los Angeles	3/16/2006	Federal Bureau of Investi...
Lucrecia Chilel Gomez	15	PASADENA	3/15/2024	Pasadena Police Departmen...
Dennis Aguilar Cruz	18	VENTURA	3/12/2023	Ventura Police Department
Henrique De Nogueira Ferrao	13	LONG BEACH	3/12/2015	Long Beach Police Departm...
Helena De Nogueira Ferrao	14	LONG BEACH	3/12/2015	Long Beach Police Departm...
De'anni Collette	8	LOS ANGELES	3/10/2017	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Amanie Cummings	16	PALMDALE	2/8/2024	Los Angeles County Sherif...
Emma Raica	1	Anaheim	2/6/2024	Anaheim Police Department
Kento Juarez	11	SOUTH EL MONTE	2/6/2019	El Monte Police Departmen...
Cruz Alexander Lem Choc	19	LOS ANGELES	2/5/2022	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Jenny Aviles Gonzalez	16	Los Angeles	2/24/2024	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Isabella Ayala Melgoza	13	Chula Vista	2/18/2024	Chula Vista Police Depart...
Alicia Jimenez Diaz	17	WESTMINSTER	2/15/2022	Westminster Police Depart...
Daniel Gonzalez	17	LOS ANGELES	2/14/2023	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Gloria Marroquin Marroquin	17	ROSEVILLE	2/1/2023	Roseville Police Departme...
Arianna Fitts	11	OAKLAND	2/1/2016	Federal Bureau of Investi...
Hannah Pobursky	19	Oakhurst	2/1/2006	Madera County Sheriff's O...
Brianna Harris	16	PALMDALE	1/8/2024	Los Angeles County Sherif...
River Metcalf	15	LA MIRADA	1/7/2024	Los Angeles County Sherif...
Jacob Vasey	17	COVINA	1/7/2023	Covina Police Department
Jennifer Hernandez Garcia	20	LOS ANGELES	1/5/2022	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Ren Weddles	8	STOCKTON	1/4/2018	Stockton Police Departmen...
Setina Weddles	8	STOCKTON	1/4/2018	Stockton Police Departmen...
Jose Garcia	3	STOCKTON	1/26/2022	San Joaquin County Sherif...

Isabella Chavez	13	HANFORD	12/5/2024	Hanford Police Department
KAYLA ROSA	22	SAN FRANCISCO	12/4/2002	Office of the District At...
Cynthia Rodriguez	16	Santa Fe Springs	12/3/2024	Whittier Police Departmen...
Mariah Herrera	16	EL MONTE	12/30/2023	El Monte Police Departmen...
Alexander Quintana	5	ORANGE	12/30/2021	Orange County Sheriff's O...
Kira Fullbright	17	Stockton	12/29/2024	Stockton Police Departmen...
Amalia Stoian	4	ANAHEIM	12/29/2022	Long Beach Police Departm...
Matusalem Stoian	3	ANAHEIM	12/29/2022	Long Beach Police Departm...
Sabina Khachaturov	17	Van Nuys	12/25/2023	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Enrik Khachaturov	13	Van Nuys	12/25/2023	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Aylissa Olvera	16	Palmdale	12/24/2024	Los Angeles County Sherif...
Alondra Martinez-Parras	16	INGLEWOOD	12/23/2022	Inglewood Police Departme...
Glenda Hernandez Monzon	21	LYNWOOD	1/22/2020	Los Angeles County Sherif...
Orrin West	8	CALIFORNIA CITY	12/21/2020	Bakersfield Police Depart...
Orson West	7	CALIFORNIA CITY	12/21/2020	Bakersfield Police Depart...
Maura Tambriz-Tzoc	24	Canoga Park	12/20/2015	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Jesus Miranda Rivera	12	BELL GARDENS	12/19/2022	Bell Gardens Police Depar...
Ashly Sibrian Rivera	8	BELL GARDENS	12/19/2022	Bell Gardens Police Depar...
Edras Sibrian Rivera	2	BELL GARDENS	12/19/2022	Bell Gardens Police Depar...
Eylin Sibrian Rivera	6	BELL GARDENS	12/19/2022	Bell Gardens Police Depar...
Alayshia Haywood	16	CITRUS HEIGHTS	12/18/2024	Sacramento County Sheriff...
Haile Martinez	18	HEMET	12/17/2021	Riverside County Sheriff'...
Cecilia Jones	16	Merced	12/14/2024	Merced Police Department
Wayne Sawyer	18	Los Angeles	12/14/2008	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Jesus Garcia Mendoza	12	RESEDA	12/13/2018	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Vannessa Garcia Mendoza	17	RESEDA	12/13/2018	Los Angeles Police Depart...

Ximena Garcia Mendoza	17	RESEDA	12/13/2018	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Jacob Cayetano	17	EL MONTE	12/11/2024	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Leo Cayetano	16	EL MONTE	12/11/2024	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Maelyn Moore	16	SAN BERNARDINO	12/10/2024	San Bernardino Police Dep...
Naomi Leyvas	17	LOS ALAMITOS	12/09/2024	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Braydon Pence	17	FRESNO	12/06/2024	Fresno Police Department ...
Ethane Ojeda	16	San Francisco	12/03/2024	San Francisco Police Depa...
Olga Mejia	17	TRACY	1/20/2022	Tracy Police Department
Sofia Weichinger	15	Van Nuys	11/9/2024	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Malo Campos	16	BAKERSFIELD	11/9/2023	Bakersfield Police Depart...
Joshua Cortes Gordillo	7	OXNARD	1/19/2019	Oxnard Police Department
Jesus Cortes	9	OXNARD	1/19/2019	Oxnard Police Department
Alazeh Gil Hernandez	13	PLACENTIA	1/18/2024	Placentia Police Departme...
Ernest John Macadaeg	16	DAVIS	1/18/2012	Contra Costa County Distr...
Jazmine Shelton	16	Chula Vista	1/17/2020	Chula Vista Police Depart...
Janay Shelton	10	Chula Vista	1/17/2020	Chula Vista Police Depart...
Jozlynn Shelton	16	Chula Vista	1/17/2020	Chula Vista Police Depart...
Joseph Shelton	8	Chula Vista	1/17/2020	Chula Vista Police Depart...
Elijah Moore	25	WOODLAND	11/4/2016	Woodland Police Departmen...
Aranda Briones	22	MORENO VALLEY	1/13/2019	Riverside County Sheriff'...
Antonia Cocom Ajqui	17	Palmdale	11/26/2024	Los Angeles County Sherif...
Charlie Shiflett	16	FAIR OAKS	11/26/2024	Sacramento County Sheriff...
Aidyn Grey	17	HESPERIA	11/24/2024	San Bernardino County She...
Stephanie Lamoureux	15	GOLETA	11/22/2024	Santa Barbara County Sher...
Melissa Fu	18	Irvine	11/22/2019	Irvine Police Department
Huaiyu Chin	13	SAN DIEGO	1/12/2019	U.S. Marshal's Service
Binyu Chin	10	SAN DIEGO	1/12/2019	U.S. Marshal's Service
Khrystyna Carreno	16	BAKERSFIELD	11/20/2020	Kern County Sheriff's Off...

Hayley Mayon	22	Hanford	1/1/2019	Hanford Police Department
Richard Vasquez	17	San Bernardino	11/15/2024	San Bernardino Sheriff's ...
Sandy Pineda Campos	16	LOS ANGELES	11/13/2024	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Samantha Jalomo-Velasquez	13	POMONA	11/12/2013	Pomona Police Department
Fredy Putul Chun	16	AZUSA	11/11/2022	Los Angeles County Sherif...
Olivia Dyer	14	PALO CEDRO	11/10/2024	Red Bluff Police Departme...
Zi'Lynn Bradley	16	LANCASTER	11/10/2022	Los Angeles County Sherif...
Mia Mencias	2	Los Angeles	11/04/2024	Los Angeles Sheriff's Off...
Ezaviah Casares	16	Tulare	11/01/2024	Tulare Police Department ...
Victoria Marquina	22	SUTTER CREEK	10/8/2019	Amador County Sheriff's O...
Brooke Roberts	14	HESPERIA	10/6/2019	San Bernardino County She...
Sophia Hall Nunez	3	Encinitas	10/5/2023	United States Marshals Se...
Diona Peterson	23	Santa Ana	10/4/2005	Orange County District At...
Maryana Hipska	17	ROSEVILLE	10/31/2023	Placer County Sheriff's O...
Mariah Bernal-Garcia	17	SACRAMENTO	10/28/2024	Sacramento County Sheriff...
James Petty	18	BAKERSFIELD	10/28/2020	Bakersfield Police Depart...
Miriam Lopez Lazara	17	Santa Maria	10/27/2023	Santa Barbara County Sher...
Leon Castellanos	6	MARINA DEL REY	10/24/2018	Los Angeles County Sherif...
Diego Flores	19	Victorville	10/23/2007	Ontario Police Department
Raymond Cobbs	14	PASADENA	10/21/2024	Pasadena Police Departmen...
Maria Ghiocel	14	Oxnard	10/20/2024	Oxnard Police Department
Domingo Antonio Juan	19	RIVERSIDE	10/20/2021	Riverside Police Departme...
Domingo Caal Chen	20	CONCORD	10/20/2021	Concord Police Department
Ishaan Khaitan	8	SUNNYVALE	10/19/2018	Sunnyvale Police Departme...
Laray Newborn	13	LANCASTER	10/18/2024	Los Angeles County Sherif...
Alexia Gonzalez Perez	16	LOS ANGELES	10/18/2024	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Alisa Osvath	17	WOODLAND HILLS	10/18/2023	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Sarah Guillen	17	Lancaster	10/17/2024	Torrance Police Departmen...

Yani Jimenez diaz	22	FULLERTON	10/17/2019	Fullerton Police Departme...
Dreik Ramirez jimenez	6	FULLERTON	10/17/2019	Fullerton Police Departme...
Oscar Ramos	16	Van Nuys	10/16/2024	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Enrique Rios	25	ESPARTO	10/16/2016	Yolo County Sheriff's Off...
Karlie Guse	22	BISHOP	10/13/2018	Mono County Sheriff's Off...
Anna Ghoroghchian	15	North Hollywood	10/12/2024	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Shian Robertson	17	VIEW PARK	10/10/2024	Los Angeles County Sherif...
Prince Hunter	17	Moreno Valley	08/14/2024	Riverside County Sheriff'...
Genesis Balbuena	15	Los Angeles	07/07/2025	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Sydney Jertberg	17	South Lake Tahoe	07/06/2025	El Dorado Sheriff's Offic...
Vienna Gracia	14	Moreno Valley	07/02/2025	Riverside County Sheriff'...
Denashia Kelly	13	SPRING VALLEY	06/30/2025	San Diego County Sheriff'...
Melody Stevens	16	Oakland	06/28/2025	Oakland Police Department...
LaKeyshia McKnight	16	SACRAMENTO	06/27/2025	Sacramento Police Departm...
Ahmaya Washington	15	Hesperia	06/26/2025	San Bernardino County She...
Dillan Seid	17	LOS ANGELES	06/25/2025	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Jhenifer Davila Lopez	16	Sun Valley	06/23/2024	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Veronica Cardenas	17	San Marcos	06/22/2025	San Diego County Sheriff'...
Nina Williams	14	RANCHO CUCAMONGA	06/13/2025	San Bernardino County She...
Summer Christie	16	SACRAMENTO	06/12/2025	Sacramento County Sheriff...
Kailey Corales	17	STOCKTON	06/12/2025	Stockton Police Departmen...
Keyoni Littleton-Christian	12	Bakersfield	06/12/2025	Bakersfield Police Depart...
A'nyah Gardner	16	SYLMAR	06/12/2025	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Catelynn OBannon-Taylor	16	Fresno	06/11/2025	Fresno Police Department ...
Isabella Robinson	17	HAYWARD	06/09/2025	Alameda County Sheriff's ...
Ella Wadleigh	15	San Bernardino	06/08/2025	San Bernardino Police Dep...
Christina McNally	16	LOS ANGELES	06/06/2025	San Bernardino County She...
Natalie Zaragoza	17	RIVERBANK	06/04/2025	Riverbank Police Departme...

Donaven Carvalho	17	Turlock	06/04/2025	Turlock Police Department...
Hayden Grider	15	SAN DIEGO	06/03/2025	San Diego Police Departme...
Evelyn Orozco	15	CANOGA PARK	06/01/2025	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Jonathan Pinney	15	TULARE	05/27/2025	Tulare Police Department ...
Marissa Burke	16	Redding	05/24/2025	Redding Police Department...
Lorenzo Iancu	17	ORANGE	05/23/2025	Orange County Sheriff's O...
Sophia Gomez	16	LOS ANGELES	05/20/2025	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Riley Thomas	17	SAN FRANCISCO	05/18/2025	San Francisco State Unive...
Alison Castillo	17	LOS ANGELES	05/15/2025	Los Angeles Police Depart...
ZaNiyah Chiles-Lipscomb	17	CITRUS HEIGHTS	05/14/2025	Citrus Heights Police Dep...
Giselle Brown	17	SAN DIEGO	05/12/2025	San Diego Police Departme...
George Kue	18	ANAHEIM	05/12/2025	Anaheim Police Department...
Alexa Ramirez Moreno	15	El Monte	05/09/2025	El Monte Police Departmen...
Kitra Guzman	17	Salinas	05/09/2025	Salinas Police Department...
Kona Bainum	17	LOS ANGELES	05/09/2025	Newport Beach Police Depa...
Bianca Lopez	17	Spring Valley	05/06/2025	San Diego County Sheriff'...
Erriion Robinson Falconer	15	Palmdale	05/02/2025	Los Angeles Sheriff's Dep...
Alisa Hernandez	16	Gardena	05/01/2025	Gardena Police Department...
Charity Bunch Colehour	16	Simi Valley	04/30/2025	Simi Valley Police Depart...
Khloe Sims Gullette	15	FAIRFIELD	04/28/2025	Vallejo Police Department...
Ruth Penalosa	16	DINUBA	04/27/2025	Corcoran Police Departmen...
Evelyn Flores	14	PANORAMA CITY	04/26/2025	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Audrey Vasquez	17	VISALIA	04/25/2025	Visalia Police Department...
Jahi Turner	25	SAN DIEGO	04/25/2002	San Diego Police Departme...
Malachi Gonzalez Uribe	15	CERES	04/24/2025	Ceres Police Department (...
Camille White	17	SAN BERNARDINO	04/21/2025	San Bernardino Police Dep...
Jolana Marthine-Ortiz	13	San Bernardino	04/19/2025	San Bernardino Police Dep...
Albert Smith	13	ORANGE	04/19/2025	Orange County Sheriff's O...

Matthew Garcia	17	LOS ANGELES	04/18/2025	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Christopher Garcia	15	Lancaster	04/17/2025	Los Angeles County Sheriff...
Noah Lopez	16	LOS ANGELES	04/16/2025	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Joseph Honicky	16	Los Angeles	04/15/2025	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Pauline Gerstenberg	14	Anaheim	04/14/2025	Anaheim Police Department...
Guadalupe Maciel Elias	17	BAKERSFIELD	04/11/2025	Kern County Sheriff's Off...
Brandon Reyes	16	MADERA	04/09/2025	Madera Police Department ...
Carthron Cooper	17	LOS ANGELES	04/08/2025	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Katheryn Ramirez Rauda	15	LANCASTER	03/29/2025	Los Angeles County Sheriff...
Jose Valenzuela	16	Rialto	03/28/2025	Rialto Police Department ...
Traceton Turner	16	LONG BEACH	03/26/2025	Long Beach Police Departm...
Joy Dickson Hislop	16	Los Angeles	03/26/2025	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Geovanni Webb	14	CHATSWORTH	03/26/2025	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Miracle Magana	15	Long Beach	03/22/2025	Long Beach Police Departm...
Maelon Jackson	17	EL MONTE	03/22/2025	El Monte Police Departmen...
Marcos Rosales Madrigal	7	San Ysidro	03/22/2024	Porterville Police Depart...
Dreyanna Vasquez	16	HACIENDA HEIGHTS	03/21/2024	Los Angeles County Sheriff...
Denlynn Phelps	17	MORENO VALLEY	03/18/2025	Riverside County Sheriff'...
Pharrell Gaston	16	Lancaster	03/12/2025	Los Angeles Sheriff's Dep...
Sophia Novigrod	17	PALMDALE	03/10/2025	Los Angeles County Sheriff...
Walter Sandoval	16	Canoga Park	03/09/2025	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Pedro Escobar	14	Los Angeles	03/08/2025	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Justin Tran	16	Downey	03/07/2025	Downey Police Department ...
Reed Hayes	16	VALLEJO	03/07/2025	Solano County Sheriff's O...
Angel Nwankwo	15	FRESNO	03/05/2025	Stockton Police Departmen...
Hazel Morales Tapia	17	FRESNO	03/01/2025	Fresno Police Department ...
Jaylene Martinez	15	FRESNO	02/27/2025	Fresno Police Department ...
Jalen Lanni	17	Victorville	02/18/2025	San Bernardino County She...

Mia Trevino	15	Riverbank	02/17/2025	Stanislaus County Sheriff...
Giovanni Mustata	15	Orange	02/13/2025	Orange County Sheriff's D...
Tyme Thomas	14	Los Angeles	02/12/2025	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Mark Costello	15	PASADENA	02/07/2025	Pasadena Police Departmen...
Jazlynne Galvez	17	SOUTH GATE	02/04/2025	South Gate Police Departm...
Jacqueline Verduzco	17	Fresno	02/01/2025	Fresno Police Department ...
Jacob Taylor	16	Beaumont	01/30/2025	Riverside County Sheriff'...
Isabella Siebrandt	14	LAKEWOOD	01/30/2025	Los Angeles County Sherif...
Jayden Lovato	13	FRESNO	01/30/2025	Fresno Police Department ...
Alejandra Aparicio	17	Los Angeles	01/29/2025	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Jaylin Lewis	17	Chatsworth	01/28/2025	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Phoenix Leyva	18	SIMI VALLEY	01/28/2025	City of Simi Valley Polic...
Tanya Chavez	16	NORTHRIDGE	01/26/2025	Los Angeles Police Depart...
Makaylee Garrison	17	Fresno	01/25/2025	Fresno County Sheriff's O...
Dominyk Esquivel	17	QUARTZ HILL	01/22/2025	Los Angeles Sheriff's Dep...
Koleha Cobbs	17	LONG BEACH	01/21/2025	Long Beach Police Departm...
Victoria Rapport	17	Orange	01/10/2025	Orange County Sheriff's O...
Jilara Lopez Perez	17	LONG BEACH	01/10/2025	San Bernardino Sheriff's ...

NCMEC Poster Links available for each case. Visit missingkids.org for photos and additional details.

10. FOSTER CARE FUNDING

Federal foster care and adoption assistance funding for **California**. Data sourced from USASpending.gov TAGGS (Tracking Accountability in Government Grants System).

Total Federal Funding: \$13,601,617,713

Program	Total Funding	Grant Count
Title IV-E Foster Care	\$7,833,907,956	69
Adoption Assistance	\$4,634,743,407	48
Social Services Block Grant	\$1,132,966,350	29

Funding by Year

Award	Total Amount	Grants
FOSTER-2025	\$1,427,840,406	5
FOSTER-2024	\$1,336,161,113	10
FOSTER-2023	\$1,318,161,255	11
FOSTER-2021	\$1,302,534,814	14
FOSTER-2022	\$1,269,241,277	13
FOSTER-2020	\$1,179,969,091	16
ADPTASST-2025	\$871,884,342	4
ADPTASST-2024	\$837,168,028	10
ADPTASST-2023	\$809,130,793	11
ADPTASST-2022	\$749,394,712	7
ADPTASST-2021	\$708,923,383	8
ADPTASST-2020	\$658,242,149	8
FCGP-2021	\$286,051,578	2
SSBG-2020	\$193,090,896	5
SSBG-2021	\$192,744,091	5

11. TRAINING ORGANIZATIONS

Key child welfare training and service organizations operating in **California**.

California Regional Training Academies

California funds several Regional Training Academies (at UC Davis, CSU Fresno, San Francisco State, and San Diego State) that provide standardized training to county child welfare workers statewide. These university-based centers deliver new worker core training and advanced courses to ensure consistent CPS practice across California's counties.

Los Angeles County DCFS Training Division

The training arm of LA County's Department of Children and Family Services, responsible for preparing the county's CPS staff. It operates a Child Welfare Institute that offers new social worker training, supervision training, and specialized courses (e.g. forensic interviewing, trauma-informed care) to the nation's largest local child welfare workforce.

California CASA Association

A statewide nonprofit that supports and coordinates Court Appointed Special Advocate programs across California. CASA volunteers are trained and managed by local CASA organizations (under this association's guidance) to advocate for foster children in court, ensuring the children's needs and best interests are heard in dependency proceedings.

12. PENDING LEGISLATION

Child welfare related bills currently pending in the **California** legislature. Data sourced from OpenStates API.

No pending child welfare legislation found for this state.

13. CASE LAW

Child welfare case law for **California** from state appellate courts. Cases crawled from Justia Law covering 2020-2025.

10 California Child Welfare Cases

Case Name	Court	Year	CW Reason
In re S.R.	Supreme Court	2025	Child welfare: ...
In re N.R.	Supreme Court	2023	Child welfare: ...
In re F.M.	Supreme Court	2023	Child welfare: ...
In re D.P.	Supreme Court	2023	Child welfare: ...
In re D.N.	Supreme Court	2022	Child welfare: ...
In re Guardianship of Saul H.	Supreme Court	2022	Child welfare: ...
In re E.F.	Supreme Court	2021	Child welfare: ...
In re A.R.	Supreme Court	2021	Child welfare: ...
In re A.N.	Supreme Court	2020	Child welfare: ...
In re G.C.	Supreme Court	2020	Child welfare: ...

Case Links (Justia)

- In re S.R.: <https://law.justia.com/cases/california/supreme-court/2025/s285759.html>
- In re N.R.: <https://law.justia.com/cases/california/supreme-court/2023/s274943.html>
- In re F.M.: <https://law.justia.com/cases/california/supreme-court/2023/s270907.html>
- In re D.P.: <https://law.justia.com/cases/california/supreme-court/2023/s267429.html>
- In re D.N.: <https://law.justia.com/cases/california/supreme-court/2022/s268437.html>
- In re Guardianship of Saul H.: <https://law.justia.com/cases/california/supreme-court/2022/s271265.html>
- In re E.F.: <https://law.justia.com/cases/california/supreme-court/2021/s260839.html>
- In re A.R.: <https://law.justia.com/cases/california/supreme-court/2021/s260928.html>
- In re A.N.: <https://law.justia.com/cases/california/supreme-court/2020/s242494.html>
- In re G.C.: <https://law.justia.com/cases/california/supreme-court/2020/s252057.html>

14. NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Child welfare related nonprofit organizations operating in **California**. Data sourced from IRS Business Master File (BMF) and Form 990 filings.

15 Organizations Found

Organization	City	EIN	NTE E	Revenue	Assets
INLAND COUNTIES REGIONAL ...	SN BERNR DNO	237121672	P820	\$1008.6M	\$173.9M
EASTERN LOS ANGELES REGIO...	ALHAMBR A	237049877	P820	\$424.5M	\$127.2M
KERN REGIONAL CENTER	BAKERSFI ELD	237115846	P820	\$328.8M	\$75.5M
HUMANGOOD PENNSYLVANIA	DUARTE	231547587	P750	\$88.3M	\$301.8M
CATHOLIC CHARITIES A COMM...	SAN DIEGO	237334012	P20Z	\$80.4M	\$36.8M
LOS ANGELES CENTERS FOR A...	SANTA FE SPG	237110152		\$59.5M	\$14.8M
LOS ANGELES DEPENDENCY LA...	MONTERE Y PAR	205491740	I80	\$56.7M	\$53.1M
COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS FOR C...	GILROY	237351215		\$53.3M	\$13.8M
COMMUNITY CHILD CARE COOR...	HAYWARD	237218859	P33C	\$48.2M	\$5.4M
SACRED HEART COMMUNITY SE...	SAN JOSE	237179787	P200	\$47.7M	\$30.3M
QUANTUM LEAP HEALTH CAREC...	SAN FRANCISC	204284925	P20	\$45.1M	\$60.9M
MONTECITO RETIREMENT ASSO...	SANTA BARBAR	237425754	P750	\$40.9M	\$152.7M
COALITION FOR RESPONSIBLE...	LOS ANGELES	202445113	O50	\$37.4M	\$29.5M
ENCOMPASS COMMUNITY SERVICES	SANTA CRUZ	237275290	P200	\$36.8M	\$7.1M
COVENANT HOUSE CALIFORNIA	LOS ANGELES	133391210	P300	\$36.6M	\$26.0M

NTEE Code Key: P = Human Services | I = Crime/Legal | O = Youth Development | T = Philanthropy



15. CHILDWELFARE.GOV RESOURCES

The following are state-specific child welfare resources from the Child Welfare Information Gateway (childwelfare.gov) for **California**. These are authoritative federal compilations of state laws and policies - the 'golden leaves' of our legal tree.

Reporting

- [Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect](#)
- [Making and Screening Reports of Child Abuse and Neglect](#)
- [Immunity for Persons Who Report Child Abuse and Neglect](#)
- [Cross-Reporting Among Agencies that Respond to Child Abuse and Neglect](#)

Definitions

- [Definitions of Child Abuse and Neglect](#)
- [Definitions of Domestic Violence](#)
- [Definitions of Human Trafficking](#)

Court & Legal

- [Grounds for Involuntary Termination of Parental Rights](#)
- [Court Hearings for Permanent Placement of Children](#)
- [Court Jurisdiction and Venue for Adoption Petitions](#)
- [Determining the Best Interests of the Child](#)

Adoption & Permanency

- [Consent to Adoption](#)
- [Access to Adoption Records](#)
- [Adoption and Guardianship Assistance](#)
- [Completing Intercountry Adoptions Not Finalized Abroad](#)

Foster Care

- [Extension of Foster Care Beyond Age 18](#)
- [Responding to Youth Missing from Foster Care](#)
- [Background Checks for Prospective Foster, Adoptive, and Kinship Caregivers](#)
- [Case Planning for Families Involved with Child Welfare Agencies](#)

Other

- [Child Witnesses to Domestic Violence](#)
- [Disclosure of Confidential Child Abuse and Neglect Records](#)
- [Use of Safety and Risk Assessment in Child Protection Cases](#)
- [Responding to Child Victims of Human Trafficking](#)

State Landing Page: childwelfare.gov/resources/states-territories-tribes/ca/

16. APPENDICES & DATA SOURCES

Data Sources

- SCAN Policies Database 2023v1 (scancoliciesdatabase.com)
- HHS Child Maltreatment Reports 2012-2023
- HHS Child Welfare Outcomes Portal (cwoutcomes.acf.hhs.gov)
- FBI National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)
- NCMEC Missing Children Registry (missingkids.org)
- USASpending.gov Foster Care Grants (TAGGS)
- Child Welfare Information Gateway (childwelfare.gov)
- IRS Business Master File (BMF) - Nonprofit Registry
- IRS Form 990 - Nonprofit Financial Data
- OpenStates API - State Legislative Tracking
- CourtListener - Federal & State Case Law
- Justia - State Statutes & Case Law (law.justia.com)
- CFSR (Child & Family Services Reviews) Data
- AFCARS (Adoption & Foster Care Analysis)

Verification Architecture: Root-to-Fruit

ROOT (Legal Foundation): Federal statutes (CAPTA 42 USC §5101-5116, Title IV-E, ICWA) and U.S. Constitutional protections form the authoritative legal foundation. These are verified against Cornell Law Institute primary sources and the Child Welfare Information Gateway.

TRUNK (State Law Database): SCAN Policies Database 2023v1 serves as the authoritative repository of state child welfare statutes. Hash-based baseline verification confirms legal text currency. Status: VERIFIED (20/20 nodes).

BRANCHES (Decision Chain): 42 decision nodes mapped to state statutes via SCAN column mappings. Each node links to specific statutory citations verified against Justia state code and OpenStates legislative tracking for pending amendments.

LEAVES (Verification Points): Real-time hash comparison between current SCAN text and training baseline. Cryptographic hashes (SHA-256) detect any statutory changes since baseline creation, triggering re-verification alerts.

FRUIT (Outcome Data): Statistical outcomes verified against authoritative federal sources - HHS Child Maltreatment Reports, CFSR/AFCARS data portal, FBI NIBRS crime statistics, NCMEC missing children registry, and USASpending.gov grant data. IRS BMF/Form 990 data for nonprofit verification.

Verification Date: February 18, 2026 | SCAN Version: 2023v1 | Baseline Status: VERIFIED

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Report generated: February 18, 2026 at 11:35 PM