Child Fatality Review Program

Overview

To better understand why and how our children die, Missouri implemented the Child Fatality Review Program. Through review, we hope to identify causes and strategies that will ultimately lead to a reduction of child fatalities. The Missouri Child Fatality Review Program (CFRP) is a county-based initiative that encourages an improved community understanding and response to child fatalities from all causes. The State CFRP panel is made up of members from child protection disciplines who have the opportunity to respond immediately to an identified risk or circumstance by means of further investigation, providing services and initiating prevention strategies.

Missouri's CFRP has been a national model for child-death review in other states and is a true expression of child advocacy.

CFRP Statutes

RSMo 210.192 to 210.196 requires that every county in Missouri (114 counties and the City of St. Louis) establish a multidisciplinary CFRP panel to examine the deaths of all children, birth through age 17, that occur in Missouri.

The statutes provide a mechanism for the legal exchange of otherwise confidential information between cooperating child protection disciplines and agencies. If the death meets specific program criteria, it is referred to the county's CFRP panel.

All meetings conducted, all reports and records made and maintained by the local CFRP panel shall be confidential and not open to the public.

RSMo. 210.195, the State Technical Assistance Team (STAT) was established to oversee the Child Fatality Review Program.

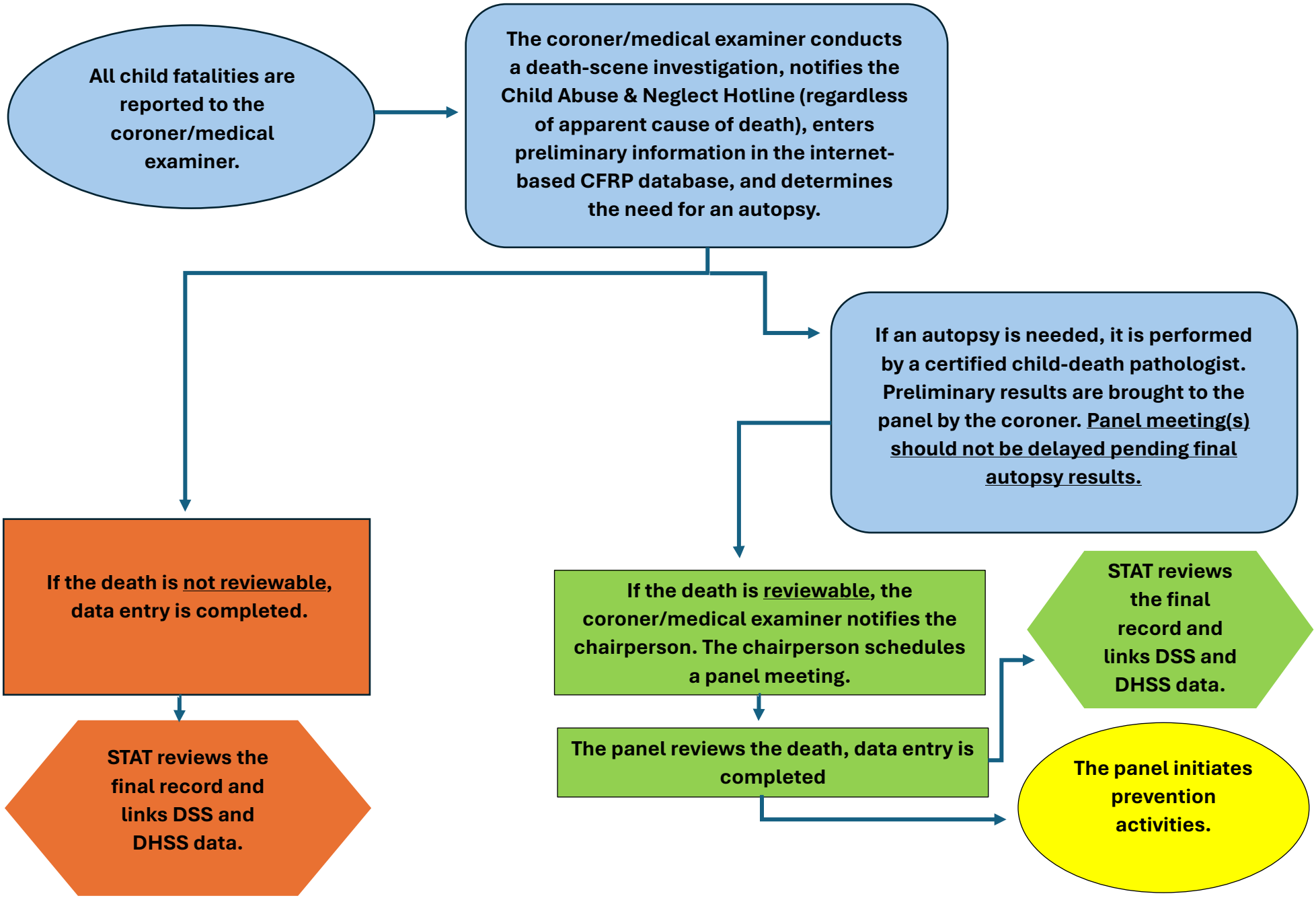
RSMo 58.452 The coroner shall notify the division of all child fatalities.

RSMo 194.117 requires that any child under the age of one year and over the age of one week, who dies suddenly when in apparent good health, shall be autopsied by a certified child-death pathologist.

Criteria for Review

- Sudden, unexplained death
- Unexplained/undetermined
- Malnutrition/dehydration
- Child abuse/neglect
- Criminal activity/suspicious death
- Injury (electrocution, crush, fall, etc.)
- Children's Division history with the family
- Decedent in custody (DSS, DMH, DYS, JO, etc.)
- Medical neglect
- Motor vehicle injury
- Fire injury
- Other child deaths in the household
- Autopsy by certified child death pathologist
- Suicide
- Firearm
- Confinement
- Drowning
- Suffocation/strangulation
- Poisoning
- Sleep related deaths
- Hyperthermia
- Preventable illnesses (COVID-19, Influenza, Asthma, Diabetes)
- Substance-use related deaths
- Unwitnessed or home births
- Animal related
- Panel discretion

Child Fatality Review Flowchart



Child Fatality Review

Meeting Process

BEGINNING

Information Sharing

- Panel members are expected to share all known information related to the circumstances surrounding the death.
- Reviews will not be effective unless all information known to panel paticipants is shared during the review of a death.

Sign in and confidentiality

- All meetings conducted, all reports and records made and maintained pursuant to RSMo 210.192-210.196, by the local panel shall be confidential and not open to the public.
- Sign in and confidentiality sheets should be signed by all panel members prior to each CFRP meeting

Introductions

- Introductions provide critical context for discussion and gives panel members a sense of the perspectives and roles of other panel members.
- CFRP meetings strengthen and develop multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) in the county.

MIDDLE

Each case reviewed should cover 5 categories:

PREVENTION

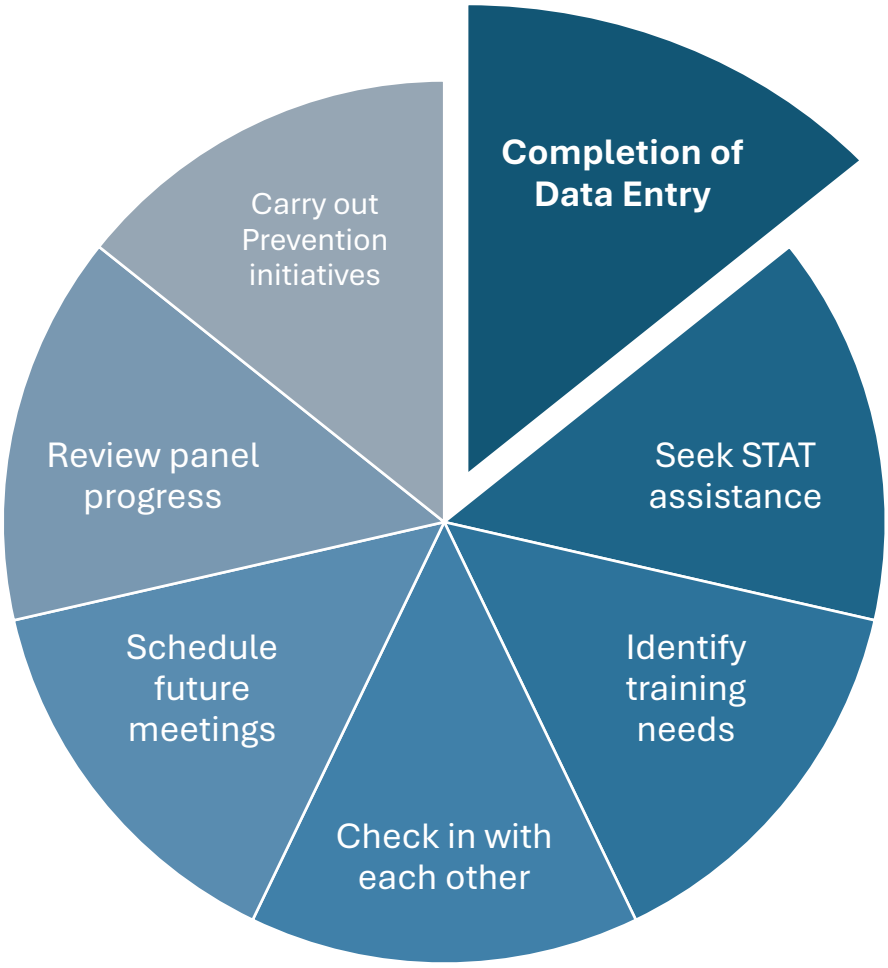
Services

Investigation

Agency policy and practices

MDT Coordination

END



Data Entry

The National Fatality Review-Case Reporting System (NFR-CRS) is a web-based standardized case report tool available to states that was first created in 2005. The system allows local and state Child Death Review (CDR) and Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) users to enter case data, summarize findings, review team recommendations, access and download data, and create standardized reports. A data use agreement must be completed to participate.

STAT provides technical assistance and training in the use of the internet-based case reporting system. STAT can assist with obtaining a login to the system by calling 573-751-5980

The web address to login is: data.ncfrp.org

Panel member roles

Chairperson

- Chair the meeting of the panel
- Accept notification and report of child deaths from the coroner
- Contact optional panel members
- Ensure confidentiality is maintained

Coroner/Medical Examiner

- Notify the CD hotline and chairperson of all child fatalities
- Notify STAT of remanded deaths.
- Enter preliminary data entry into the database
- Provide autopsy/death certificate information to the panel

Prosecuting Attorney

- Provide legal definitions and explanations
- Obtain criminal history
- Provide feedback on cases that enter the criminal justice system
- **The prosecuting attorney or circuit attorney, upon the vacancy of the CFRP chairperson shall convene a local CFRP panel.**

Law Enforcement

- Provide investigative updates
- Provide information for past history reports with the family
- Provide an overview of the death scene and findings
- Assist with assuring safety of surviving children

Children's Division

- Provide all records and information (past and present) involving the child or family
- Provide follow up and support for surviving family members
- Serve as a liasion with CD counterparts

EMS

- Assist in investigation by awareness of proper scene management and observation of spontaneous statements
- Notify coroner of all child fatalities
- Provide information from previous calls for the family

Department of Health

- Assist in the discovery and review of previous health care/medical records.
- Serve as a liaison and make referrals to health-based prevention/intervention systems.
- Use data and case histories from the child fatality review to assist in the development of prevention programs.
- Provide expertise and interpretation regarding normal infant and childhood growth and development.

Juvenile Office

- As necessary, provide protection of siblings and other children in the home.
- Provide all background information and records on the family.
- Keep the juvenile court informed of developments affecting the family and children.

STAT is here to help panels with any assistance needed!

Any panel member may complete data entry

Any panel member can be elected as chairperson EXCEPT the coroner/medical examiner

EVERY panel member is responsible for identifying prevention initiatives

Child Fatality Review Program
State Map

State Administrator	Western Missouri	Eastern Missouri
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