
**Department of Children and Family Services Sexual Behavior
Problems Program's Compliance with the
Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Act (325 ILCS 15/) Mandate**

The mission of Illinois DCFS is to protect children who are reported to be abused or neglected and to increase their families' capacity to safely care for them; provide for the well-being of children in our care; provide appropriate, permanent families as quickly as possible for those children who cannot safely return home; support early intervention and child abuse prevention activities and work in partnerships with communities to fulfill this mission.

In part, the Department addresses (325 ILCS 15/) the Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Act through its Sexual Behavior Problems (SBP) Program, whose goal is to prevent, ameliorate, reduce, and eliminate the trauma of child sexual abuse and exploitation. Specifically, the SBP program retains qualified and State credentialed specialists (Licensed Sex Offender Evaluators and Licensed Sex Offender Treatment Providers) who provide counseling, therapeutic services and evaluative services to youth who are sexually aggressive and have experienced sexual abuse and/or exploitation by either their caregiver or a person who is responsible for the youth's welfare.

Services are provided through community-based providers who contract with DCFS. Services provided to youth and/or their families are monitored by SBP Program specialists who ensure services are individually tailored, sound, clinically appropriate and applied as long as necessary to enable youth and caretakers to achieve goals set forth by the Department. SBP staff members provide educational training sessions to stakeholders regionally to disseminate information on the dynamics and treatment of child sexual abuse through Department policy 302.240. In addition, SBP program specialists and administrators regularly provide clinical training on child sexual abuse, its clinical dynamics and consequences, and how to support and provide appropriate treatment interventions to youth who present with sexually problematic behaviors.

To provide quality and research-based support to youth and their caregivers, the SBP program collaborated with community-based providers to create "SBP Standards of Care" for youth in care. Given the gap of such direction in the field at large, the Standards are projected to impact service delivery for SBP youth across the State. As a result of DCFS's pioneering effort to serve SBP youth, Illinois will be the 5th State in the Nation to have such Standards.

To comply with the mandate set forth by the Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Act, the SBP program works closely with many stakeholders Statewide including, but not limited to, GALs, State's Attorneys, law enforcement, community-based social and human service agencies, and Child Advocacy Centers.

Respectfully submitted,

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