



January 7, 2025

To people interested in the Texas State Child Fatality Review Team (SCFRT) Committee:

**About SCFRT:**

Per [Texas Family Code, Section 264.503](#) the purpose of the SCFRT Committee is to:

- (1) Develop an understanding of the causes and incidence of child deaths.
- (2) Identify procedures within the agencies represented on the committee to reduce the number of preventable child deaths; and
- (3) Promote public awareness and make recommendations to the governor and the legislature for changes in law, policy, and practice to reduce the number of preventable child deaths.

The committee produces a formal biennial report with recommendations to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS). The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) shares the biennial report with the public and includes information on child fatality incidences and causes.

A committee member must participate in committee meetings on a regular basis and may also participate in subcommittee meetings, projects, and presentations. Committee meetings will be held quarterly or at the call of the committee chair. Members must attend meetings in person, by telephone, or other electronic medium as established by DSHS. Committee members may receive reimbursement for their travel to and from in-person meetings if funds are available.

Each member of the committee must be a member of the child fatality review team in the county where the committee member resides unless the committee member is an appointed representative of a state agency.

**DSHS is currently accepting committee membership applications for the following position:**

- **A sheriff**

The SCFRT Committee permanent members will appoint members to the SCFRT Committee to serve a three-year term. **Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. (CT) on January 31, 2025.**

The committee includes representatives of each of the following:

- A criminal prosecutor involved in prosecuting crimes against children
- A sheriff
- A justice of the peace
- A medical examiner
- A police chief
- A pediatrician experienced in diagnosing and treating child abuse and neglect
- A child educator
- A child mental health provider
- A public health professional
- A child protective services specialist
- A sudden infant death syndrome family service provider
- A neonatologist
- A child advocate
- A chief juvenile probation officer
- A child abuse prevention specialist
- A representative of the Department of Public Safety
- A representative of the Texas Department of Transportation
- An emergency medical services provider
- A provider of services to, or an advocate for, victims of family violence
- Six permanent members representing legislators, DSHS, and DFPS

If you would like to serve on the SCFRT, please complete and return the attached application no later than **11:59 p.m. (CT) on January 31, 2025**. You may email this application to [cfrt@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:cfrt@dshs.texas.gov), attention Sarah Blezinger, Injury Prevention Coordinator. DSHS will notify applicants by March 7, 2025, if the SCFRT selected them to serve as a committee member.

Under [Texas Family Code, Section 264.502\(d\)](#), the SCFRT Committee must select committee members that represent the diversity of all Texans. For this reason, members selected to serve on the committee must reflect the geographical, cultural, racial, and ethnic diversity of the state. The agency does not discriminate against applicants and members of the DSHS advisory committees on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, religion, age or sex.

For more information, please submit questions to [cfrt@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:cfrt@dshs.texas.gov) or visit the DSHS SCFRT website at [State Child Fatality Review Team Committee | Texas DSHS](#).