RYAN SPEIDEL Children's Ombudsman

NULL WHAT HALF ALL MUNICIPALITY

A SHORT HISTORY LESSON

Ombudsman

- Swedish Term
- Origin Parliament 1809
 - Nonpartisan
 - Broad jurisdiction
 - Independent

Standards of practice

 American Bar Association

United States
Ombudsman
Association

The OCO

 1994 - Created in legislation

 Department of Technology, Management and Budget

MISSION AND ROLE OF THE OCO

The mission of the Office of the Children's Ombudsman is to help improve Michigan's child welfare system through:

1. Awareness, Advocacy, Public Education, Review and Recommendation.



The role is to advocate for children and identify areas for improvement in the child welfare system.

THE CHILDREN'S OMBUDSMAN ACT

Powers

- Advocacy
- Public Education
- Investigate/Review/Ensure Compliance
- Pursue all Necessary Action... (mcl 722.925a)
- Findings & Recommendations
 - For improvement
- Not a regulatory body

Responsibility

- Annual Report
 - Advise the Governor, MDHHS, & Legislature
- Child death case review

DEATH ALERT INVESTIGATIONS

- What is a Death Alert? Why do we receive them?
- MCL 722.926(2)
 - Shall investigate (Preliminary or Full):
 - Preliminary Investigation vs. Full Investigation
 - All child fatality cases where child abuse or neglect is suspected in the death.
 - If one or more of the following occurred within 24 months preceding the child's death:
 - Active child protective services investigation
 - Open services case
 - Assigned or rejected complaint made CPS centralized intake (CI)
 - The child's death occurred while in foster care
 - The child (or a sibling) was returned home from foster care

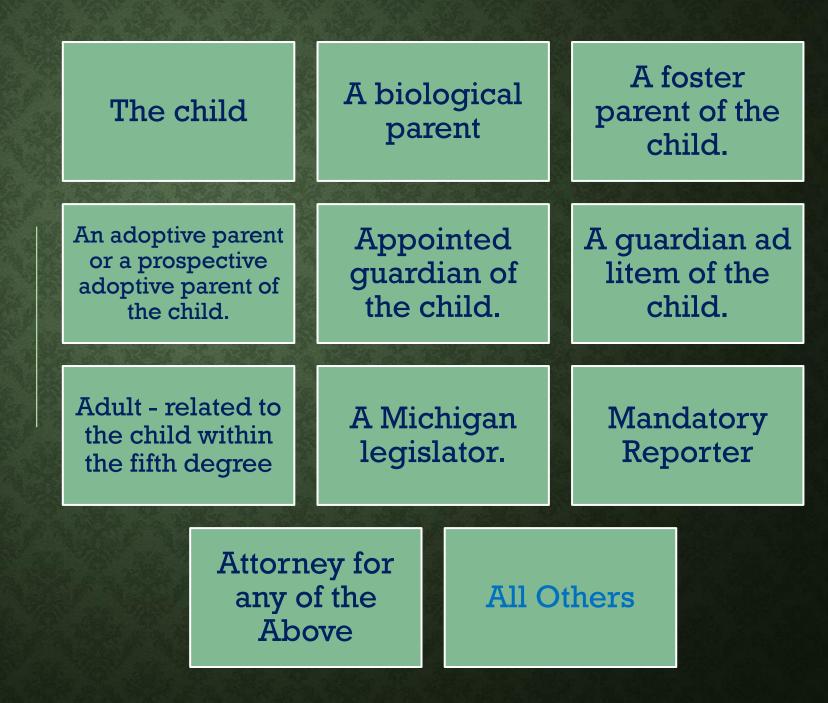
COMPLAINANT CASES

• MCLA 722.924 (4)

- Any individual may submit a complaint to the ombudsman.
- Only the Ombudsman can decide...
 - What an administrative act is
 - If a complaint shall be opened
- The ombudsman may initiate an investigation without receiving a complaint.
- Administrative act contrary to law, rule, and/or policy
 - Ultimately Did or is the right thing happening

SO, YOU'RE A 'COMPLAINANT'

MCL 722.925



CONFIDENTIALITY AND THE OCO

The OCO is exempt from FOIA

All records are confidential

Complainants & Witnesses are confidential

DAY TO DAY OPERATIONS















EDUCATION

PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIONS

INVESTIGATIONS

MEDIATION

FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

RELEASED REPORTS (AR, F&R)

KEY TAKEAWAYS

• The OCO was created to inform:

Advocacy, Review and Recommendation, Public Education

Confidentiality

- Our investigations and interviews are extremely confidential
- Results of investigations are sometimes shared

• Working with MDHHS

- Investigations
- Interviews
- Recommendations
- Cooperation
 - Open dialogue

QUESTIONS?

<u>OCO Contact Numbers:</u> <u>1-800-Mich-FAM</u> <u>517-241-0400</u>

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