
Sexual Behavior Problems Program's Compliance with the Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Act (325 ILCS 15/) Mandate

The mission of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is to promote the safety and well-being of children, youth, and families by responding to reports of potential abuse and neglect and, when needed, providing family-centered care and connection to resources.

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, 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 assure services are individually tailored, sound, clinically appropriate and available 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 administrator regularly provide clinical trainings 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 have positively impacted service delivery for SBP youth across the State. As a result of DCFS's pioneering effort to serve SBP youth, Illinois is one of a few across the nation to have such Standards of care.

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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