

2011 CJA Task Force Recommendations

A. Activities to improve investigative, administrative and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect, particularly child sexual abuse and exploitation...in a manner which reduces trauma to the child victim...

- **Recommendation A.1.:** Provide MDTs with training to enhance coordination of investigation, intervention and prosecution and/or work with local communities to establish MDTs.
- **Recommendation A.2.:** Provide statewide and local professional training to improve the handling of child abuse and neglect cases.
- **Recommendation A.3.:** Continue support for CACTX and Texas CASA.

B. Experimental, model and demonstration programs for testing innovative approaches and techniques which may improve the prompt and successful resolution of civil and criminal court proceedings or enhance the effectiveness of judicial and administrative action in child abuse and neglect cases...

- **Recommendation B.1.:** Develop and implement programs that address the unique challenges faced by victims of child abuse with mental or physical disabilities
- **Recommendation B.2.:** Increase use of specialized courts and/or attorneys to handle child abuse and neglect cases.
- **Recommendation B.3.:** Develop and implement programs that increase cultural competency in relation to decision-making processes in the handling of cases of child abuse and neglect.

C. Reform of State laws, ordinances, regulations, protocols and procedures to protect children from abuse, particularly child sexual abuse.

- **Recommendation C.1.:** Develop and implement best practices and/or model protocols for identification of child abuse and neglect which can be used and disseminated state-wide.
- **Recommendation C.2.:** Reform state laws and create and/or expand programs that ensure all children and youth have continuing access to advocacy and the judicial system.