

- Require that all child abuse cases involving sexual abuse or physical abuse resulting in serious bodily injury be referred to, and investigated by, SIUs. Establish consistency in how SIUs investigate these cases and in how SIUs are administered.
- Establish: 1) an oversight committee; and 2) an advocate's or ombudsman's office that would function independently of DCF. The advocate's office would be modeled on VT's long-term care ombudsman.
- Broaden the definition of "harm" in 33 V.S.A. § 4912 to include exposing a child under 14 years of age to illegal substances.
- Create enforceable post adoption contract agreements limited to children within State custody.
- Recommend that judges take GAL opinion into consideration.
- Ask DCF to develop policies for elevated observation/protection of a child returned home when other children have been removed.
- Create a new crime for failure to prevent harm to a child.
- Establish a pilot project in two counties allowing courts to use case managers in CHINS cases.
- Allow DCF workers to remove a child on an emergency basis and to do the affidavit and paperwork in support of an emergency care order.
- Expand the "cone of confidentiality" to include every provider working with a child, including treatment providers and educators, as well as law enforcement and DCF workers.
- Allow all entities that administer drug tests to share results with DCF, and authorize DCF to require tests.
- Allow DCF (and courts?) to monitor a family for a longer period of time after a child is returned.