

Introduction to the MSP Program

The California Children's Justice Act Task Force (CJA) is dedicated to improving the investigation and prosecution of child abuse crimes in California. To that end, this multi-agency task force developed the Minimum Standards Protocol for the Investigation of Child Abuse and Neglect (MSP). The MSP identifies the key concerns and issues that should be addressed when developing a written investigative protocol for child abuse cases. The MSP was first developed in the early 1990's after a series of transfer of knowledge workshops across the state. The MSP has been revised over the years to acknowledge concerns with drug endangered children and children exposed to domestic violence.

Your county may already have developed a written protocol that incorporates the MSP. Perhaps that protocol is in active use; perhaps it sits on a shelf and has been forgotten over time. It may be time to dust it off and give it new life. Whether you are starting from a clean slate or are updating an existing protocol, the Process Checklist, which has also been developed by the CJA Task Force, will be helpful to you. It is a practical guide to the protocol development process from beginning to end.