

STATE OF COLORADO

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

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B, 004 93

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Roy Romer
Governor

TASK FORCE ON CHILD WELFARE GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

- WHEREAS, the Colorado Department of Social Services ("DSS") administers the Child Welfare Program; and
- WHEREAS, complaints are sometimes raised regarding DSS actions in instances where there are allegations of child abuse; and
- WHEREAS, DSS currently has in place a complaint procedure in which individuals may submit written complaints regarding DSS actions; and
- WHEREAS, this administration desires to ensure that the current DSS complaint procedure adequately addresses complaints relating to DSS investigations in instances where there are allegations of child abuse;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Roy Romer, Governor of the State of Colorado, under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Colorado, DO HEREBY ORDER THAT:

1. The Task Force on Child Welfare Grievance Procedures is hereby established.
2. The task force shall consist of no more than eight members who are respected in their chosen fields. No member of the task force may be an employee or officer of the State of Colorado or an employee or officer of any county of the State of Colorado, and no member of the task force may be an individual with a complaint against DSS regarding instances where there are allegations of child abuse.
3. The task force members shall be appointed by the Governor and shall serve at his pleasure.
4. The task force members shall be appointed on or before April 15, 1993.

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5. The task force shall advise the Governor as to whether a need exists for an external review process regarding complaints against DSS concerning actions taken as a result of allegations of child abuse.
6. If the task force determines that an external review process is necessary, it shall make recommendations as to the scope of the process. In formulating these recommendations, the task force shall examine: (a) models of grievance procedures from other states related to child welfare, (b) citizens' review committees, (c) modification of child protection teams, and (d) any other review models that may be appropriate.
7. Certain complaints against the child welfare system can only be addressed in the judicial system. Therefore, the task force shall ensure that any external review shall not interfere with the judicial system.
8. DSS shall present state models of grievance procedures to the task force if requested to do so by the task force.
9. The task force shall complete its work on or before July 1, 1993, and shall submit a written report to the Governor with its findings and recommendations on or before that date.
10. The authority for the task force shall expire on September 30, 1993, or at such time as the Governor deems appropriate.

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GIVEN under my hand and the
Executive Seal of the State
of Colorado this fifteenth
day of April, 1993.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Roy Romer".

Roy Romer
Governor