

Office of the
Child Advocate

ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2025

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

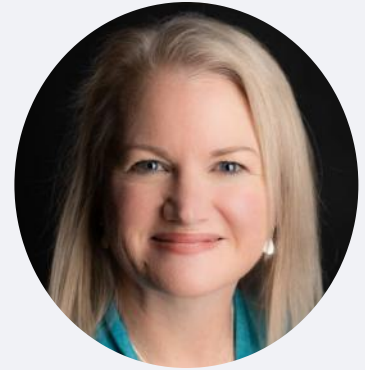


A young child with dark hair, wearing a grey short-sleeved shirt and blue jeans with a white lace waistband, is standing on a wooden floor. The child is holding a yellow and white toy, possibly a ball or a container, and appears to be playing with it. The background is a bright, out-of-focus room with a brick wall and a window. A large blue curved shape is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the table of contents text.

Table of Contents

04	Mission and Vision
05	Agency Overview
06	Legal Services Division
12	Policy & Training Division
18	Investigation Coordinator
20	Legislative Advocacy
21	Community Awareness
22	Donations

Message from the Child Advocate



Kelly Ensslin, Esq., CWLS - Child Advocate

Fiscal Year 2025 was a milestone year for OCA, marking the 25th anniversary of the opening of the office in February of 2000. The Delaware State Bar Association (DSBA) featured an article about OCA's 25-year journey in the April (Child Abuse Prevention Month) edition of its publication, The Journal, along with a Q&A with Delaware's first Child Advocate, Tania Culley, about building a new government agency from the ground up. FY 25 was also a year of new beginnings, as Tania entered her well-deserved retirement, and I transitioned from my role as Chief of Legal Services into the role of Child Advocate. In that new role, I am proud to share OCA's highlights and accomplishments from FY 25 in this year's Annual Report, as we continue to celebrate our history and look forward to the future of our agency.

Highlights from FY 25 include:

- A record number of children appointed both an attorney and a CASA upon entering DSCYF custody.
- Over 40,000 professionals trained on recognizing and reporting child abuse or advanced child welfare topics.
- Provided 52 youth and young adults who experienced foster care with scholarships for higher education, and supported 22 youth who attended college under the Tuition Waiver Program.
- Supported the CAN Panel in completing 117 reviews of cases of child death or near death due to abuse or neglect.
- 207 MDT meetings held for child death, serious physical injury, drug ingestion, and juvenile trafficking cases.
- Passage of House Bill 42 to support the continued work of the Juvenile Trafficking Oversight Team (JTOT).
- Articles published in the Delaware Bar Journal to promote awareness of child abuse and neglect issues and a call to action from Bar members.
- Continued support of the children we serve through donations, partnerships with Delaware lawyers and law firms, and the annual Holiday Jingle hosted by the Delaware Mortgage Banker's Association.

MISSION:

Safeguarding the Welfare
of Delaware's Children

VISION:

Safe and Resilient Children,
Supportive Families



ADVOCACY

Provides a voice for children to achieve permanency and justice, and to improve laws and policies that affect children and their families.



COLLABORATION

Fosters a communicative multidisciplinary team that builds trust and respect amongst members with a shared goal of improving outcomes for children and families.

Our Vision & Values



EVALUATION

Ensures accountability by examining child welfare data, laws, and policies.



EDUCATION

Develops quality training to increase professional expertise and public awareness. Facilitates access to resources and opportunities for youth.

Agency Structure



Legal Services Division

Provides legal representation to the approximately 500 children experiencing foster care in Delaware.



Policy and Training Division

Provides intensive reviews of serious child abuse cases, manages programs for advancement of older youth as they transition to adulthood, coordinates child welfare trainings, generates child welfare data, and staffs the Child Protection Accountability Commission (CPAC).



Office of the Investigation Coordinator

Monitors over 700 serious child abuse cases from investigation through prosecution, and leads multidisciplinary team case reviews.



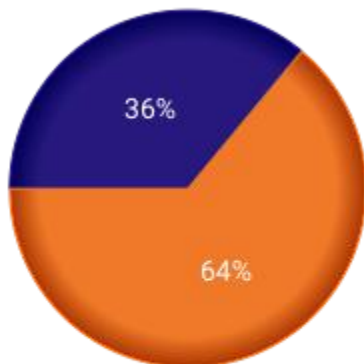
LEGAL SERVICES

OCA's Legal Services Division represents abused, neglected, and dependent children in Delaware through 4 full-time Deputy Child Advocates, 7 contract Child Attorneys, and over 160 volunteer attorneys from the Delaware Bar. Delaware's Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program is part of the Legal Services Division, and over 200 CASA volunteers work hand-in-hand with child attorneys, together with one of OCA's 11 CASA Coordinators, to form the child's legal team.

Child Representation

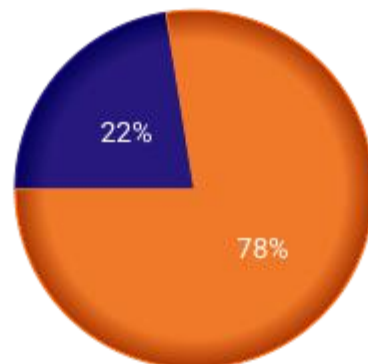
- 867 youth and young adults were represented by OCA in FY 25.
- 241 new children were appointed an attorney during FY 25.
- 78% of children who entered DSCYF custody during FY 25 were appointed both an attorney and a CASA.

Child Representation
By Type



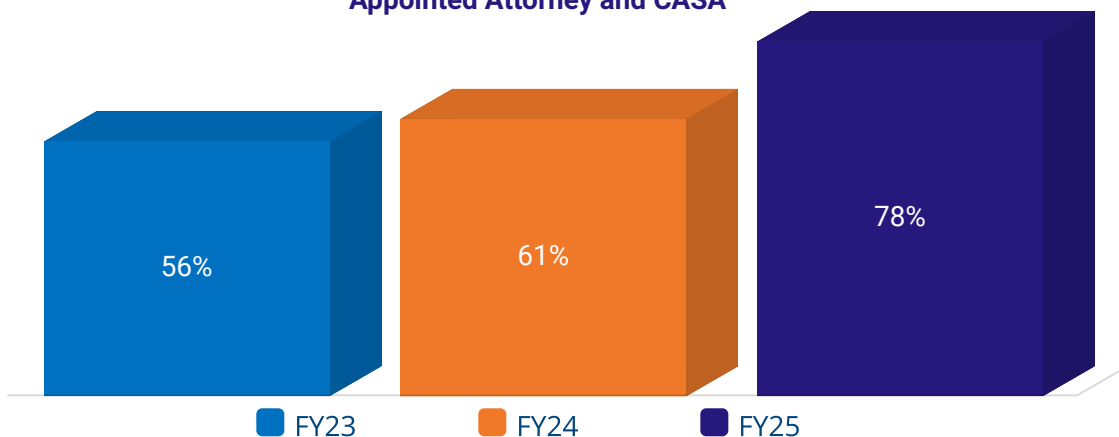
■ Attorney Only
■ Attorney & CASA

New DSCYF Custody Appointments
By Type



■ Attorney Only
■ Attorney & CASA

**% of Children Entering DSCYF Custody
Appointed Attorney and CASA**



**227 children
benefitted from a**

volunteer attorney

in FY 25

Volunteer Attorneys

Private attorneys from all practice areas of the Delaware Bar volunteer to represent children after receiving training from OCA.

Volunteer attorneys represent approximately one-third of children in DSCYF custody.

At the end of FY 25, OCA had a roster of 161 volunteer attorneys, nearly 75% of whom have at least 5 years of experience.



FY 25 Attorney Volunteer Honor Roll

20+ Years

Derek Abbott
Curtis Bounds
Nicholas Caggiano, Jr.
Megan Cascio
Joseph Cicero
Miranda Clifton
Bernard Conaway
Edward Curley
Jill Di Sciullo

Edward Eaton
Margaret England
Glynis Gibson
Brian Gottesman
Kelly Green
Shauna Hagan
Ed Harron
Susan Hauske
David Hutt

David Jenkins
Judy Jones
Eleanor Kiesel
Gretchen Knight
Kathryn Laffey
Lewis Lazarus
Timothy Lengkeek
Mary Erin Mariani
Matthew B. McGuire

Sharon Morgan
Richard Renck
Joseph Rhoades
Thomas Shellenberger
Leslie Spoltore
Lisa Stark
Patricia Urban
Elizabeth Weinig
Natalie Wolf

10-20 Years

David Anthony
Matthew Bartkowski
Vera Belger
Sean Bellew
Paul Bradley
Nicholas Brannick
Allyson Britton
Kevin Capuzzi
Marc Casarino
Tabatha Castro
Shae Chasanov
Lauren Cirrinicione
Kevin Collins
Kathleen Davis

Kasey DeSantis
Mark Desgrosseilliers
Nicole DiSalvo
David Felice
Lauren Fortunato
Andrew Gonser
Susan Harron
Suzanne Holly
Melissa Hopkins
Kelley Huff
Shannon Humiston
Travis Hunter
Jennifer Jauffret
Robert Katzenstein

Nicholas Krayner
Tara Lattomus
Claire Love
Ryan Maerz
Michael McDermott
Shari Milewski Lumb
Stephen Morrow
Michael Nestor
Ryan Newell
Stacy Newman
Jonathan O'Neill
Pamela Politis
Stephanie Reid
Andrew Rennick

Dana Reynolds
Dana Severance
Tiffany Shrenk
Deborah Spivack
Amanda Steele
Kara Swasey
Scott Swenson
R. Taneyhill
Bryan Townsend
Robert Vrana
Megan Walstrom
Chandra Williams

5-10 Years

Emery Abdel-Latif
Thomas Allgood
Melony Anderson
Anne Barnett
Zachary Berl
Ashley Bickel
Gregory Birney
Michelle Bounds
Andrea Brooks

Tiphanie Cascella
William Chapman
Brian Currie
Renee Delcollo
Brenna Dolphin
Mariellen Edinburg
Jennifer Ellsworth-Aults
S. Alexander Faris
Richard Ferrara

Erin Fitzgerald
Angela Flaherty
John Gentile
Matthew Goeller
Sabrina Hendershot
Nicole Henry
Randall MacTough
Bruce McCullough
Megan McGovern

Michael Migliore
Benjamin Potts
David Ripsom
Aaron C Sims
Nicholas Verna
Raeann Warner
Elise Wolpert
Chad Wood

Less than 5 Years

Rebecca Anderson
Carson Bartlett
Samuel Bashman
Alpa Bhatia
Ellen Boyle
Joshua Brooks
Phillip Casale
Dawn Crompton
Amanda Day

Kristi Doughty
Roxanne Eastes
Carley Felzer
Lauren Ferguson
Adam Gerber
Ryan Hart
Jennifer Hoover
Ellis Huff
Robert Hunt

Brian Jordan
Theodore Kotler
Karen Lantz
Juan Martinez
Makayla Monica
Megan Murray
Eric Nascone
Jessica Needles
Zoe Plerhoples

Bryan Reed
Marius Sander
Alena Smith
Chad Toms
Vernon Vassallo
Steven Walsh
Adam Wasserman
Emily Wheatley
Sandy Xu

CASA Program

The mission of Delaware's CASA Program is to serve as a voice for Delaware's abused and neglected children through skilled volunteers, community collaboration and quality representation instilling a need for safe and permanent relationships that will build healthy and resilient children.

VOLUNTEERS

74 new applications were received in FY 25, and 46 applicants were sworn in during the fiscal year.

TRAINING

7 pre-service training sessions were held in FY 25. In addition, volunteers were offered advanced training opportunities in the form of 11 virtual Lunch & Learn sessions, 23 live in-service trainings, and 1 statewide conference.

RECRUITMENT

CASA held 14 information sessions in FY 25, including sessions at entities such as Corporation Service Company, New Castle County Board of Realtors, and Faith Presbyterian Church. CASA also participated in 22 community events to provide information about the CASA Program and recruit volunteers, including the Ladybug Festival, Wilmington Police Department Resources Fair, and the Race to Protect Delaware's Children 5k.

Delaware CASA also partnered with radio station WSTW for recruitment advertising through a grant from the National CASA Association.



FY 25 CASA Volunteer Honor Roll

10-20 Years

Richard Gary Banks
Bobbi Barends
Robert Barnes
Marybeth Celello
Jessica Clampitt
Eschalla Clarke
Ann Couzens

Suzanne Feaster
Beverly Flannigan
Janet Gordon
Dennis Hallock, Sr.
Colleen Harbison
Starr Hargraves
Caroline M. Jones

Elaine Jones
Kathleen Koster
Constance Luetngen
Anne Martelli
Helene McKinny
Rose Nolen-Watson
Susan O'Doherty

Karen Reuschlein
Amina Saunders
Geraldine Storan
Daneen Tucker
Elvida Yoder

5-10 Years

Monica Beard
James R. Beirnes
Lynn Budd
Linda Busacca
Peggy Butler
Sade Calvarese
Rasheeda Campbell
Cheryl Cloud
Carmel Colica
Carole Cotman

Deborah Hartnett
Erica Holmes
Denise Sylvia Hubbell
Lauren Irwin
Delia Joseph
Evelyn Kauffman
Laura Lee
Mary Mackenzie-Priapi
Malinda Maslo
Leann Moore

Marissa Nardo
Marie Therese Peters
Jeannette Raiford
Velma Richardson-Graziano
Stephanie Rizzo
Dianne Rogers
Barbara Roos
Christine Schultz
Diane Senerth
Teresa Shuchart

Michelle Smith
Eileen Taylor
Roberto Teti
Tonya Thorpe
Fatimah UrQuhart
Michael Wilson
Allan Zoeller

Less than 5 Years

Carmine Alessandro
Alicia Alexander
Shoshana Altschuler
Kelly Anderson
Lisa Bain
Lindsay Baker
Gregory Barclay
Stephanie Barnes
Becky Beeler
Sheryl Bender
Donna Benton
Debra Bermingham
Anna Bird
Graciela Blanchet
Deborah Blanding
Jennifer Boye
Miranda Brewer
Adrienne Brown
Jacqueline Bryk
David Budney
Melanie Burns
Chastity Cannon
Loretta Catron
Kim Chitty
Norwood Coleman, Jr.
Diane Counts
Ashley Croft
Cheryl Crowe
Laura Crozier
Mary Crumbacker
Marie-Jose Crumpton
Jaleesa Davis
Sheila Davis
Whymia Davis
Theresa Deakins
Lisa DeCerchio
Bruce DePuyt
Robert DeSantis
Annie DiGregorio

Lyle Dillon
Amanda Dixon
Thomas Erickson
Stephanie Evans-Mitchell
Tricia Ewing
Victoria Figgs
Megan Fioravanti
Violet Fisher
JoAnn Ford
Devon Francis
Cherilann Franco
Nina Fullwood
Sarah Fulton
Susan Goidell
Shyaira Goodwyn-Dineen
Patricia Grant
Marlena Green
Emily Griffith
Yvette Guinn
Lori Guitson
Londyn Hackett
Gregory Haley
April Hall
Nishelle Harris-Hines
Brian Harryman
Tchad Marie Heil
Cheri Hochstedler
Regina Honeycutt
Hareena Houston
Alvin Jackson, Jr.
Cristalyn Johnson
Diane Johnston
Alan Jones
Carol Jordan
Elisabeth Kammerer
Margaret Kane-Smith
Sharon Kardos
Katherine King
Deborah Kirwan

Kevin Kolasa
Rachel Krantz
May LaDouceur
Karen Lewis
Brittany Linton
Sophia Llopiz
Alexis Loverin
Kim Lovett
Teresa Mannering
Sharada Manns
SaVette Marchman
Bruce Marks
Alice Martinelli
Linda McDermott
Paula McGowan
Linda McKennett
Tishalla McNeil
Bethany Menson
Cailin Messick
Elisabeth Miller
Sherri Milnes
Zakiya Minkah
Shanda Mitchell
Abbie Moore
Lori Nester
Mikhal Ollison
Christopher Poole
Hykiem Purnell
Julie Rausch
Joyce Rawlings
Helen Reines
Jessica Richie
Margaret Ropp
Jennifer Rowles
Jaimee Ryan
Tiana Saunders
Maria Schatzman
Maria Scott
Elyse Sharp

Victoria Sherlock
Savannah Shifflett
Sharon Sifford-Wilson
La'Vonne Singletary
Vickie Slavetskaskas
Anita Smitherman
Stephanie Milbauer Soukup
Nya Stedman
Colleen Stevens
John Stoltzfus
William Tate
John Taylor
Kevin Taylor
Barbara Tenney
Allison Thomas
Carrie Thompson
Emily Thompson
Sydney Thompson
Darcie Toone
Phyllis Towler
Martina Travis
Stacey Tuck
Janika Turnage
Sarah Vernon
Sandra Vitale
Carolyn Walker
Xiao Wang
Inashay Washington
Christine Watson
Michael Weinstein
Vivian Dewberry Whipple
Tamila Wildfeuer
Brenda Wilson
Julia Winters
Margaret Winton
Nawanna Wise
Tylieasha Wise

A young girl with dark skin and curly hair tied in a bun is jumping in the air. She is wearing gold-rimmed sunglasses, a white t-shirt, a light blue denim jacket, black leggings, and white sneakers. She is positioned in front of a blue wall with a white horizontal stripe. The right side of the image is partially covered by a large, dark blue circular graphic.

POLICY & TRAINING

OCA's Policy and Training Division
is made up of 4 Units:

1. Training
2. Services for Youth Advancement
3. Data
4. Child Abuse and Neglect

Training Unit

The Training Unit is responsible for accessing, developing, and providing quality training to Delaware's child welfare system. The Unit is also responsible for staffing the CPAC Training Committee and its workgroups. For more information on the work of the Training Committee, see the FY 25 CPAC Annual Report.

In FY 25, the Training Unit:

- ➔ Trained over 22,500 medical, educational, legal, and other professionals and members of the public on recognizing and reporting child abuse.
- ➔ Provided advanced child welfare training to over 19,000 professionals.
- ➔ Certified 34 MDT members in the ChildFirst® Forensic Interviewing Protocol.
- ➔ Finalized the *It's Not Okay* program, the state's Erin's Law curriculum for students in grades 7-12, which focuses on personal body safety and adult sexual misconduct.
- ➔ Released an enhanced Mandatory Reporting training for medical professionals that addresses abusive head trauma, poisoning via drug ingestion, medical neglect, and sentinel injuries.

Efforts to prevent toxic drug ingestions expanded through the Out of Reach Delaware campaign, which distributed over 370 lockboxes and launched statewide advertisements promoting safe drug storage and awareness. Additionally, Child Abuse Prevention Month featured a comprehensive outreach strategy, including mall and outlet advertising, social media storytelling, resource fairs, library partnerships, and the first annual Race to Protect Delaware's Children 5K.



Services for Youth Advancement

The SYA Unit is responsible for administering 2 programs for young adults who have experienced foster care: the Post-Secondary Scholarship Program and the Driver's License and Insurance Program. The Unit is also responsible for increasing collaboration between youth-serving agencies and identifying gaps in services, and staffing the CPAC Services for Youth Advancement Committee and its workgroups. For more information on the SYA Committee, see the CPAC FY 25 Annual Report.

22 youth utilized the Tuition Waiver Program during FY 25

FOSTERING INDEPENDENCE TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM

OCA's SYA Unit also supports youth who qualify for the state's Fostering Independence Through Education Tuition Waiver Program. Unit staff have developed relationships with key partners from Delaware's public institutions of higher education to help troubleshoot issues and provide additional support to students. In FY 25, the SYA Unit drafted regulations for clearer program guidance for the Tuition Waiver Program, and looks forward to implementation of those regulations in FY 26.



IVYANE DAVIS SCHOLARSHIPS & CHAFEE ETVS

OCA, on behalf of CPAC, administers the state's Ivyane Davis Scholarship and the federal Chafee Education and Training Vouchers. In FY 25, 52 youth who experienced foster care in Delaware were awarded a total of \$258,861 in funding.

Widener

Frostburg College

Morgan State University **UD**

New York Institute of Technology

Millersville **Polytech Trade Program**

Del Tech **Macalester College**

West Georgia Technical College

Del State

**In FY 25, 35 youth
received funding for
one or more services
offered by the
DLI program.**



DRIVER'S LICENSE AND INSURANCE PROGRAM

OCA's DLI Program helps pay the costs of driver education, driving practice, auto insurance, and other costs incidental to licensure. It also seeks to ensure youth have access to Driver Education class in high school whenever possible, provides education to youth on topics such as liability, shopping for insurance, and car maintenance, and provides verification letters to waive license application fees.

During FY 25, the Program continued its partnerships with the Wilmington Driving School to provide driving practice and a car for the DMV road test and with an insurance broker to help youth find the best possible insurance policy.

In FY 25, DSCYF became a funding partner with OCA, contributing \$25,000 to support youth participating in the DLI Program.

\$73,238.00

Total disbursed in FY 25



Auto Insurance

27 youth

\$53,764



Driver Education

6 youth

\$11,975



Incidental Costs

10 youth

\$7,499



DMV Fee Waiver Letters

47 youth

Data Unit

The Data Unit supports all OCA Divisions, and is responsible for data management and administration for all child welfare data maintained by OCA, the Family Court, and CPAC. The Unit builds reports and dashboards for the Court Improvement Program's committees and workgroups, staffs the CPAC Data Utilization Committee, and provides reports for CPAC committees and workgroups. For more information on the work of CPAC's Data Utilization Committee, please see the FY 25 CPAC Annual Report.

CHILD WELFARE DATA DASHBOARDS

In FY 25, the Data Unit continued to make improvements and updates to the public Child Welfare Data Dashboards, utilizing the interactive data platform Tableau to connect users to a wealth of child welfare information.



PROGRAM SUPPORT

OCA's data team received 126 tickets for data support in FY 25, and many additional requests through email from internal and external partners. These requests included developing and updating reports for all program areas, as well as updating data processes and strategies for several program areas.

JOINT RETREAT

The Unit also worked diligently during FY 25 to prepare for the joint retreat between CPAC and the Maternal and Child Death Review Commission (MCDRC), held in FY 26. The team analyzed data from the previous 2 years and formulated it into a robust presentation to inform the work of the Commissions during the joint retreat and for the next several years.

In FY 25, the CAN Panel reviewed 95 cases involving child victims of blunt force and abusive head trauma, poisoning via drug ingestion, bone fractures, burns and scalds, failure to thrive, medical neglect, rhabdomyolysis (muscle breakdown), unsafe sleep, stabbing, strangulation, and child torture. The children ranged in age from 1 month to 17 years old.

**61 INITIAL
REVIEWS**

**51 NEAR DEATHS
10 DEATHS**

**56 FINAL
REVIEWS**

Child Abuse and Neglect Unit

The Child Abuse and Neglect (CAN) Unit within the Policy and Training Division supports CPAC's CAN Panel, and is responsible for investigating and coordinating the review of child deaths and near deaths as a result of child abuse and neglect. For more information on the work of the CAN Panel, see the FY 25 CPAC Annual Report.

**120
STRENGTHS**

ACROSS 7 SYSTEM AREAS

**100
FINDINGS**

ACROSS 7 SYSTEM AREAS



A young girl with dark skin and curly hair tied in a bun is jumping in the air. She is wearing gold-rimmed sunglasses, a white t-shirt, a light blue denim jacket, black leggings, and white sneakers. Her arms are outstretched to the sides, and her right leg is bent and tucked up. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a blue wall with a white horizontal stripe near the top. The ground is a light-colored, textured surface.

INVESTIGATION COORDINATOR

During FY 25, the Office of the Investigation Coordinator (IC) received over 8,800 referrals and actively monitored over 2,900 cases of serious child abuse to ensure a coordinated MDT response.

IC facilitates MDT meetings for all serious physical injury, drug ingestion, juvenile trafficking, and child death cases. IC also facilitates monthly MDT case review meetings in each county.

In addition, IC maintains data on substance-exposed infants (SEI) and their families. Approximately 245 SEI cases were referred to IC in FY 25.

MDT Cases

200 MDT meetings in FY 25 for serious injury, drug ingestion, trafficking, and death

- 77 meetings for serious physical injury
- 64 meetings for drug ingestions
- 35 meetings for juvenile trafficking
- 24 meetings for child deaths

Juvenile Trafficking Oversight Team

IC also facilitates case reviews by the Juvenile Trafficking Oversight Team (JTOT), an expert panel charged with reviewing cases of suspected juvenile trafficking and making system-wide findings and recommendations to improve the MDT response.

IC facilitated 49 initial JTOT reviews and 14 follow-up reviews in FY 25.

These reviews have highlighted a lack of understanding of juvenile trafficking and difficulties assisting juvenile victims, including keeping them safe. Identifying youth who are at risk of trafficking is crucial, and having an immediate coordinated approach is key to providing resources and help.

Cases Opened During FY 25

CASE TYPE	# OF CASES
SEXUAL ABUSE	1,381
SERIOUS PHYSICAL INJURY	168
SUSPECTED TRAFFICKING	65
CHILD DEATH	26
PHYSICAL ABUSE	1
TOTAL	1,641

Legislative Advocacy

OCA is mandated to take all possible actions, including legislative advocacy, to ensure the legal, civil, and special rights of Delaware's dependent, neglected, and abused children. OCA staff chair the CPAC Legislative Committee and its workgroups, provide research and legislative drafting to support CPAC legislative initiatives, and advocate for passage of bills generated by both CPAC and OCA. For more information on the work of CPAC's Legislative Committee, see the FY 25 CPAC Annual Report.



OCA's legislative priority in FY 25 was House Bill 42, which codified the work of the Juvenile Trafficking Oversight Team (JTOT) and provided OCA with the resources to support JTOT and ensure its continued success. HB 42 passed the General Assembly in the final hours of its session. OCA looks forward to implementing HB 42 in FY 26.

OCA also worked during FY 25 to draft and update regulations for the Ivyane Davis Scholarship, the Tuition Waiver Program, and the Driver's License and Insurance Program, which will be published in the upcoming fiscal year.

Community Awareness

During FY 25, Kelly Ensslin chaired the Victim's Rights Committee of the Women and the Law Section of the Delaware State Bar Association (DSBA) . OCA staff, together with other members of the committee, authored 3 articles in the DSBA's publication, The Journal, during Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October) designed to promote awareness about victims of domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, and sexual violence, along with ways for Delaware attorneys to help these special victims. Following these publications, the committee provided a legal education training to members of the bar for further information on these topics.

During Child Abuse Prevention Month (April), OCA staff compiled an article for The Journal spotlighting three Delaware attorneys who work to protect children through their community non-profit agencies, and authored an article on child poisoning via drug ingestion.



"Advances in Legal Protections for Special Victims"

Summarized recent changes in Delaware law and policy designed to further protect and seek justice for special victims of crime.



"Delaware Attorneys Fill Critical Role to Ensure Representation of Special Victims"

Highlighted the importance of attorneys volunteering their time to represent special victims *pro bono*.



"Delaware Lawyers: Protecting Children and Empowering Communities During Child Abuse Prevention Month (and Beyond)"

Highlighted the work of the Beau Biden Foundation, Children's Advocacy Center, and Prevent Child Abuse Delaware, and the lawyers who lead them.



"Child Poisoning Via Drug Ingestion: What the Next 5 Years May Bring in Child Welfare"

Provided education on the prevalence of childhood drug ingestions in Delaware and the child welfare system's response to these cases.

Donations

Donations to OCA help the youth we serve experience typical childhood activities and access needed supplies. These experiences and items help youth feel like other kids their age, rather than being defined by their foster care status.

thank you
to all who donated in FY 25.

hobbies

travel

clothes/shoes

electronics

graduation attire

school fees and supplies

sports

dorm/apartment household items

toys/gifts

laptops/tablets

cell phones

clothes/shoes

car seats and other baby supplies

bicycles

art supplies

prom

toiletries/cosmetics

camps and supplies

senior portraits

Donor Honor Roll

Tonya Mayes

David and Patricia Ripsom

Melanie Sharp

Terry-Carey American Inn of Court

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati

Natalie Wolf

Young, Conaway, Stargatt & Taylor

Thank you to the following organizations for their continued partnership with OCA to provide additional support to children in foster care:

Fostering Wishes Foundation

Jason Anderson Foundation

Friends of CASA, Inc.

Friends of Sussex CASA, Inc.

Holiday Jingle

OCA is grateful to the Delaware Mortgage Banker's Association, which continues to choose OCA as the beneficiary of its annual Holiday Jingle fundraiser, and to all those who generously give during this event in support of Delaware's children experiencing foster care.



FY 25 OCA STAFF AND CONTRACTORS



LEADERSHIP

Tania Culley, Esq. - Child Advocate
Megan Caudell - CASA State Director
Michael Cooksey, Esq. - Investigation Coordinator
Kelly Ensslin, Esq. - Chief of Legal Services
Melissa Palokas - Chief Policy Advisor

ADMINISTRATION

Rooslie Maurice - Office Manager

POLICY AND TRAINING

Child Abuse and Neglect Unit

Angela Birney - CAN Review Specialist
Sara Scheid - CAN Program Coordinator

Services for Youth Advancement Unit

Sophia Saikin - SYA Director
Stephanie Beckel - SYA Coordinator

Training Unit

Carley Davis - Training Director
Mollie Marine - Contract CPAC Training Specialist
Adrienne Owen - Contract MDT Training Administrator

Data Unit

Jennifer Siemenski - Data Director
Mariam Masood - Management Analyst
Haley Ryan - Management Analyst
Danielle Thornton - Administrative Specialist

OFFICE OF THE INVESTIGATION COORDINATOR

Jennifer Perry Ward - Deputy IC
Shana Cipparone - MDT Coordinator
Lesi Elbirn - Contract MDT Coordinator
Samantha Huston - MDT Coordinator
Alyssa Moore - Management Analyst
Marissa Reed - MDT Coordinator

LEGAL SERVICES

Tahira Ayyaz - CASA Program Coordinator
Lauren Brueckner - CASA Training Director
Alfred Cave, Esq. - Contract Child Attorney
Alaina Chamberlain, Esq. - Contract Child Attorney
Sam Clancy - CASA Program Coordinator
Kristin Collison, Esq. - Contract Child Attorney
Renee Duval, Esq. - Contract Child Attorney
Jennifer Falkowski - CASA Program Coordinator
Elizabeth Fillingame, Esq. - Deputy Child Advocate
Bonnie Gladu, Esq. - Contract Child Attorney
Jonathan Harting, Esq. - Contract Child Attorney
Jessica Hazzard - CASA Program Coordinator
David Holloway, Esq. - Contract Child Attorney
Nakia Howard - CASA Program Coordinator
Clark Huffman - CASA Program Coordinator
Emella Kamara - CASA Program Coordinator
Jennifer Klein, Esq. - Deputy Child Advocate
LaTysse McKinzie-Mack - CASA Recruitment and Program Coordinator
Adrienne Phelps - CASA Program Coordinator
LoLisa Reaves - CASA Program Coordinator
Melissa Sander, Esq. - Deputy Child Advocate
Molly Shaw, Esq. - Deputy Child Advocate



Advocacy | Education | Collaboration | Evaluation