

Office of the  
Child Advocate

# ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2025

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025



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# 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.

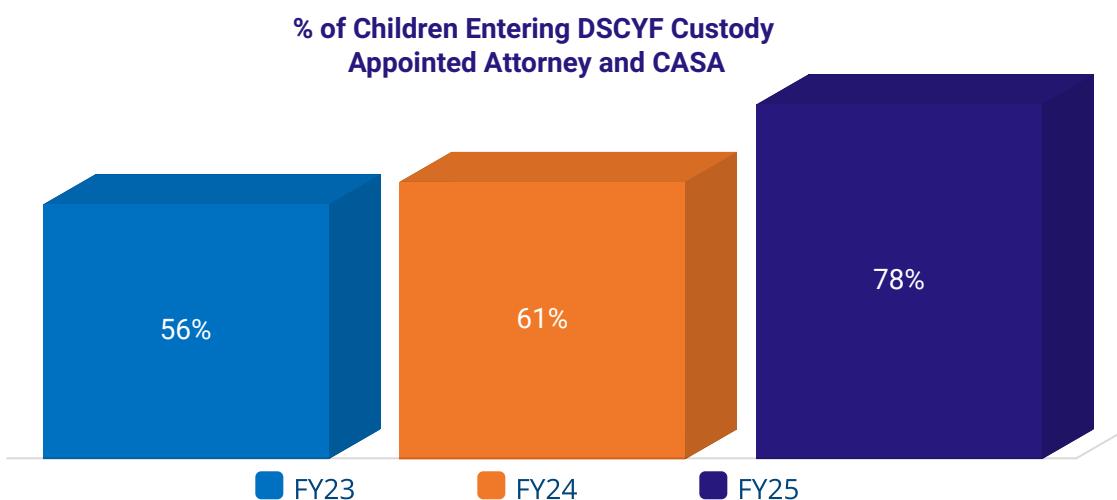
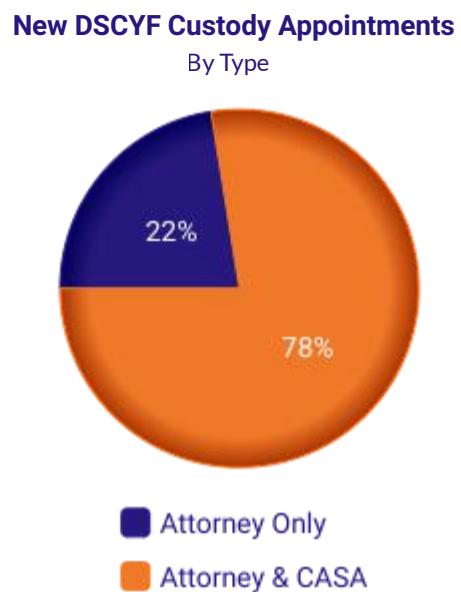
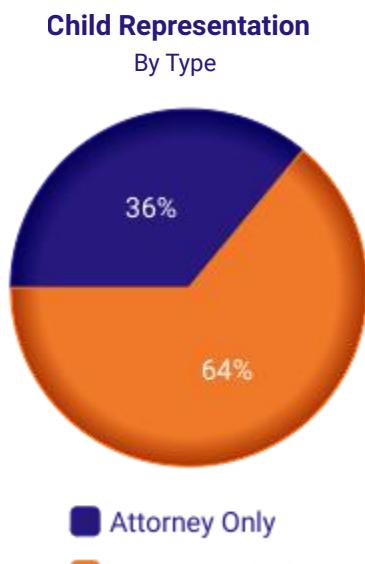


# LEGAL SERVICES

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.



**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 Sculio

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 Desgroselliers  
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 Krayer  
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  
Raeanne 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 Luettgen  
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 Guillen  
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.  
Cristaly 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 Mannerling  
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 Slavetskas  
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



# 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.

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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.



# 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.

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**

**120 STRENGTHS**

**ACROSS 7 SYSTEM AREAS**

**100 FINDINGS**

**ACROSS 7 SYSTEM AREAS**





# 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

## 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.

## 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

## 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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,641</b>

# 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.

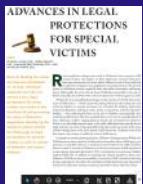
OCA also worked during FY 25 to draft and update regulations for the Ivyane Davis Scholarship, the Tuition Waiver Program, and the Driver's License and Insurance Program, which will be published in the upcoming fiscal year.



# 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 Siemerski - Data Director  
Marium 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  
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