



## Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

**Commissioner**  
*Audrey O'Neill*

The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) proudly announces the inaugural meeting for the Child Protective Investigations Advisory Committee, established under Texas House Bill 140 of the 89<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature.

Date: Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Location: Brown-Heatly 4900 N Lamar Blvd, Austin, TX 78751 (Public Hearing Room # 1400)

Time: 9am to 4pm

(Agenda will be posted on the DFPS website by March 19, 2026).

House Bill 140 directs the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to establish this advisory committee to strengthen the accuracy, consistency, and fairness of investigations into allegations of child abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The committee is charged with advising DFPS on developing and standardizing investigative policies and procedures, ensuring compliance with due process requirements, enhancing engagement models with legal advocates and judiciary, improving training for investigative personnel, and establishing data-informed models for conducting investigations. The committee will also provide a forum for public input and identify and address barriers to consistent implementation of investigative standards statewide.

Each appointed member contributes unique expertise and perspectives essential to fulfilling the committee's statutory mission:

**Judge Ryan D. Larson**, District Judge/ Committee Chair

**Laura W. Fidelie**, Vice Chair

**Judge Terence M. Davis**, District Judge

**Natalie Reeves**, Interim Associate Commissioner for Child Protective Investigations, DFPS

**Jarita Wharton**, CPI Regional Director, DFPS

**Cleveland Jackson**, CPI Supervisor (Urban Region), DFPS

**Stephanie Loewe**, CPI Supervisor (Rural Region), DFPS

**Carissa Cook**, Parent/Caregiver

**Matt Waller**, Parent/Caregiver

**Daphny Milligan**, Parent/Caregiver

**Chris Branson**, Attorney Representing Caregivers

**Megan Barcak**, County District Attorney

\*\*\*Pending one additional committee member appointment.

Together, these members will help the committee fulfill its statutory mandate to improve the effectiveness, fairness, and transparency of protective investigations throughout Texas.

We encourage public attendance and participation in accordance with the committee's commitment to transparency and engagement.

**Point of Contact:** Roman Lomas serves as liaison to the Committee. He can be reached at 512-838-1547 or [dfpscpiadvisorycommittee@dfps.texas.gov](mailto:dfpscpiadvisorycommittee@dfps.texas.gov)