

## SB1076: REDEFINING CHILD NEGLECT

“Neglect” is the child protection system’s catch-all. Currently, there are only two options for identifying child maltreatment victims: abuse and neglect, with the vast majority of maltreated children categorized as the latter. In order to improve outcomes, we need a specific understanding of why children are coming into the system. SB1076 takes this step by requiring an expert third-party independent analysis to specifically identify the allegations of abuse and neglect that result in DCS intervention.

### KEY ELEMENTS

According to the most recent federal data, over 85% of Arizona’s child maltreatment victims were categorized as neglect.<sup>1</sup>

To demonstrate the need for specificity, a neglected child could be an infant born withdrawing from meth or heroin, a teen girl repeatedly left alone with a known sex offender, a toddler living in a home with exposed animal or human excrement, or children living in a home without water or electricity. Extremely different situations, but all classified under the umbrella of neglect.

<b>SENATE BILL 1076</b>
<p>Requires an expert, independent review of Arizona’s DCS hotline reports that will identify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• specific types of abuse and neglect by number and percentage within DCS Reports.</li> <li>• specific types of abuse and neglect that are associated with an assessment that the child is unsafe and in need of protective intervention.</li> <li>• specific types of abuse and neglect that are associated with the removal of a child from the home.</li> <li>• specific types of abuse and neglect that are associated with an assessment that the child is safe and does not require intervention.</li> </ul>



[genjustice.org](http://genjustice.org)

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://cwoutcomes.acf.hhs.gov/cwodatasite/pdf/arizona.html>