Membership

The Children’s Justice Interdisciplinary Task Force (CJITF) is composed of the following disciplines as mandated in the Children’s Justice Act Grant. Members must reside in the state of Washington.

- Law Enforcement
- Superior Court Judge
- Prosecuting Attorney
- Child Advocate
- CASA Representative
- Health Professional
- Mental Health Professional
- Child Protective Service Agency
- Parent Group Representative
- Professionals who work with children with disabilities

Additionally, Task Force members help plan and participate in the Children’s Justice Conference which is held annually and has become the largest Child Abuse and Neglect conference in the state of Washington in recent years. The website for the conference is: www.dshscjc.com.

For additional information on the Children’s Justice Act Program, please call (360) 902-7966.
The Children’s Justice Interdisciplinary Task Force (CJITF), was created pursuant to the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), and operates under the auspices of Children’s Administration within the Department of Social and Health Services. CJITF members are appointed by the Assistant Secretary of Children’s Administration.

**Fulfilling the Mission**

The role of the Children's Justice Interdisciplinary Task Force is to:

- **Review and evaluate** (at three-year intervals), Washington's investigative, administrative, civil and criminal judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect, (particularly child sexual abuse and exploitation), and suspect cases of child maltreatment fatalities. Additionally, it is to review cases involving a combination of jurisdictions, such as Interstate, Federal-State, and State-Tribal.

- **Recommend** policy, training, and funding with regard to the above, that reduces additional trauma to the child victim and victim's families, and that ensures procedural fairness to the accused.

- **Contribute** in developing experimental, model, and demonstration programs for testing innovative approaches and techniques that may improve the prompt and successful resolution of civil and criminal court proceedings.

- **Reform** Washington laws, ordinances, regulations, protocols, and procedures to provide comprehensive protection for children from abuse, sexual abuse and exploitation, while ensuring fairness to affected persons.

**CJITF Committees**

**Grants & Projects Committee**
Reviews, evaluates, and recommends policies and procedures in soliciting, selecting, and administrating grant projects.

**Nominations & Membership Committee**
Monitors CJITF membership to ensure that it is reflective of Washington's state diversity and adheres to the Children's Justice Act mandates for membership.

**Review & Evaluation Committee**
Comprehensively reviews and evaluates the investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of cases involving child abuse and neglect, child sexual abuse, child exploitation, and suspected child maltreatment related fatalities.