

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03301 Executive

Order Number 95-1

**an order establishing a New Hampshire
child fatality review committee**

WHEREAS, as Governor I have expressed special interest in improving services to children who **are** victims of abuse **and** neglect; **and**

WHEREAS, the U.S. Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect has recommended that efforts be made to address the issue of child fatalities; and

WHEREAS, the formation of a standing committee composed of representatives of state agencies and relevant professional fields of practice will establish a useful repository of knowledge regarding child deaths; and

WHEREAS, in order to assure that New Hampshire can provide a continuing response to child fatality cases, the New Hampshire Child Fatality **Review** Committee must receive access to all existing records on each questionable or unexplained child death. This would include social service reports, court documents, police records, autopsy reports, mental health records, hospital or medical related data and any other information that may have a bearing on the involved child and family, and

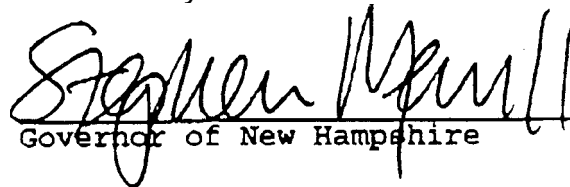
WHEREAS, the comprehensive review of such child fatality cases by a New Hampshire Child Fatality Review Committee will result in the identification of preventable deaths and recommendations for intervention strategies; and

WHEREAS, the New Hampshire Child Fatality Review Committee represents an additional' aspect of our effort to provide comprehensive services for children throughout the State of New Hampshire;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Stephen Merrill, Governor of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby establish a **multi-disciplinary** child fatality review committee. The **objectives** of this committee shall be:

1. To enable all interested parties to more effectively facilitate the prevention, investigation and prosecution of-child fatalities.
2. To identify and investigate the prevalence of a number of risks and potential risk factors *in* the population of deceased children.
3. To **evaluate** the **service** system responses to children and families who are considered to be *high* risk, and to offer recommendations for **any** improvements in **those** responses.
4. To identify high risk groups for further consideration by executive, legislative or judicial branch programs.
5. To **improve** the sources of data collection by developing protocols for autopsies, death investigations *and complete* recording of cause of death on the death certificates.
6. To describe trends and patterns of child deaths in New Hampshire.

Given under my hand and seal at the Executive Chambers in Concord, this 29th day of September in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and ninety-five.


Governor of New Hampshire