

State of New Hampshire

By His Excellency

Craig R. Benson, Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 2003-8

AN ORDER ESTABLISHING THE GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON CHILD PROTECTION

WHEREAS, children who suffer from abuse and neglect are among the most vulnerable members of our State;

WHEREAS, my administration is committed to improving services to children who are the victims of abuse and neglect and ensuring that our State's response system is of the highest quality;

WHEREAS, state and federal agencies and community based organizations must work in partnership to ensure that child protection laws are enforced and that abused and neglected children receive proper treatment; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to our State that our child protection system be examined to make certain that there are appropriate programs in place and that those programs are working together efficiently and effectively to minimize the instances of abuse and neglect and to adequately address the tragic consequences of abuse and neglect.

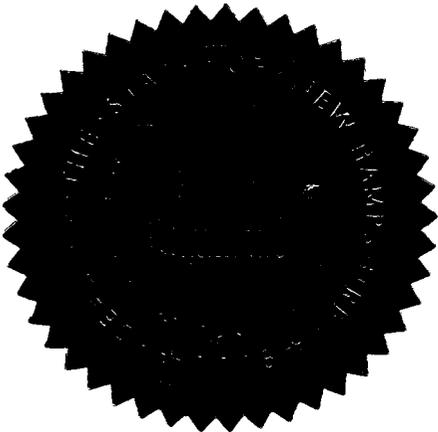
NOW THEREFORE, I, CRAIG R. BENSON, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, by the authority vested in me by Part II, Article 41 of the New Hampshire Constitution, do hereby order that:

1. There is hereby established the Governor's Commission on Child Protection. The commission shall have the following objectives:
 - A) To study the current system in place at the Department of Health and Human Services to address abuse and neglect cases, including whether adequate safeguards are in place to protect children from abuse and neglect and whether the current system adequately addresses the needs of children who suffer from abuse and neglect;
 - B) To research and identify model child protection programs and best practice models that address child protection system prevention, intervention, and treatment that may be appropriate for implementation within our State;

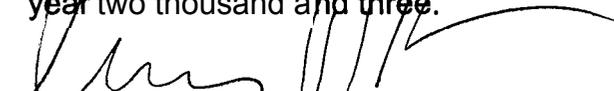
- C) To establish a model community based partnership that emphasizes multidiscipline approach and standard protocols for assessment, investigation and interviewing of children who are the victims of sexual and physical abuse;
- D) To make recommendations to the Governor and the legislature as to how to improve our child protection system and to develop a statewide plan for the implementation of the recommendations of the commission.

2. The commission will consist of 9 members. The members will include the Commissioner of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Director of the Division for Children, Youth and Families in the Department of Health and Human Services; the Attorney General or his designee; a County Attorney to be appointed by the Governor; and a Justice of the District Court. There shall be three additional members appointed by the Governor including the chairperson of the Commission.

3. The Commission shall provide an interim report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate within 120 days and shall present a final report to the aforementioned within 180 days of this order. The Commission may report to the Governor on earlier occasions as may be necessary to further its work.



Given at the Executive Chambers in Concord this sixteenth day of July, in the year two thousand and three.


GOVERNOR OF NEW HAMPSHIRE