

HOW TO FIND STATE CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT & STATE ADOPTION LAWS ON-LINE

Below is a web resources -- supported by the Children's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services -- that can be used to access abstracted descriptions of various elements of state child welfare laws.

The first, is the [Child Welfare Information Gateway](#) (formerly the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect) offers publications related to State and Federal civil laws on child abuse and neglect, child welfare, and adoption. Federal laws provide standards and guidelines; however, these issues are primarily governed by State laws and regulations in the United States.

Also at the Child Welfare Information Gateway site is the text of a publication that describes -- for nonattorneys -- the U.S. civil and criminal judicial process in child maltreatment cases. That publication, written by retired juvenile court judge William Jones, is entitled "[Working With the Courts in Child Protection.](#)"