

CDSS SOC 826 Reconciliation Process

State law (Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) § 10850.4 (j)) requires a county welfare department or agency to notify the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) of every child fatality that occurred within its jurisdiction that was the result of abuse or neglect. In addition, All County Letters 08-13, 09-02, and 10-06, issued by the CDSS require a county child welfare agency to report all near fatalities that are a result of abuse and/or neglect to CDSS. The way in which county child welfare agencies notify CDSS of a child fatality/near fatality that was the result of abuse and/or neglect is the [SOC 826 County Statement of Findings and Information](#) form.

The CDSS conducts a quarterly electronic reconciliation of all SOC 826 forms submitted by counties to verify that the Department has received all notifications submitted by counties for the reporting period. During that reconciliation, the CDSS contacts each county and confirms that the number of SOC forms received by the CDSS during that quarter matches the number submitted by the county and that the incident was confirmed to be the result of child abuse and neglect. Additional SOC 826 forms submitted by counties after each reconciliation period are not reflected in the CDSS aggregate data until they are reconciled. In addition, it may take months if not longer for incidents to be officially determined to be the result of abuse and or neglect, and the CDSS continues to receive SOC 826 forms for incidents that occurred in prior quarters as well as prior calendar years. Therefore, the aggregate numbers listed on this website for any given time may change over time.