



Strategic Action

Planning
Group on
Aging

State Structure and
Governance

June 8, 2020

Child Protection Ombudsman Office

Statutory precedent for both a quasigovernmental 501c3 and an independent agency within a state department

2010: SB10-171 authorized the Department of Human Services to contract out the Child Protection Ombudsman Programs – contract was awarded to the National Association of Counsel for Children, based in Denver

2014: State Auditor identified concerns related to implementation and progress of the Program – the Department agreed with the concerns raised

2015: SB15-204, concerning the independent function of the Office of Child Protection Ombudsman, was passed and signed into law

SB15-204 and the Child Protection Ombudsman Office

The Office – currently 8.0 FTE – operates as an independent agency within the Judicial Department and works in cooperation with a non-partisan 12-member Board

Board consists of appointments made by the Governor, Colorado Chief Justice, Senate President, Senate Minority Leader, Speaker of the House, and House Minority Leader

The Board and Office have complete autonomy, control, and authority over operations, budget, and personnel decisions related to the Office, Board, and Ombudsman

Statutory duties includes the ability to:

- Investigate and seek resolution of complaints
- Review and evaluate the effectiveness of existing processes and to make recommendations to the General Assembly and any appropriate agency, entity, or executive director related to statutory, budgetary, regulatory, and administrative changes
- Act independently from the divisions/agencies within state departments
- Make funding recommendations for the operation of the Office directly to the Joint Budget Committee and coordinate with the Office of State Planning and Budgeting for inclusion in the Governor's budget submissions to the Joint Budget Committee

	ITEM & SUBTOTAL	TOTAL	APPROPRIATION FROM				
			GENERAL FUND	GENERAL FUND EXEMPT	CASH FUNDS	REAPPROPRIATED FUNDS	FEDERAL FUNDS
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
(9) OFFICE OF THE CHILD PROTECTION OMBUDSMAN⁶²							
Program Costs		961,637	961,637				
			(8.0 FTE)				