One of the most influential pieces of federal legislation was the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) of 1974. This Act significantly changed the shape and scope of child welfare and child protection practice. CAPTA has been the impetus for implementation of the laws listed here.

### Table of Federal Child Welfare Laws and Major Provisions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name of Federal Law / Act</th>
<th>Major Provisions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1974 | Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA)               | ▪ Provides federal grant money to states to prevent and treat child abuse  
▪ Minnesota legislature enacted Minnesota Statute 626.556 (Reporting of Maltreatment of Minors Act) to comply with CAPTA and receive federal funding  
▪ Clarifies Fourth Amendment rights guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution by stipulating specific legal requirements for child protection workers:  
  • Requires notice to the subject of a child maltreatment assessment or investigation of allegations against him or her  
  • Requires training to protect the legal rights of children and families during assessments and investigations  
  • Ensures compliance with Fourth Amendment rights against unreasonable, warrantless entry and search of homes, and unlawful seizures of minor children |
| 1978 | Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform Act   | ▪ Facilitates placement in adoptive homes                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 1984 | Child Abuse Amendments                                       | ▪ Requires states to implement procedures to respond to reports of medical neglect  
▪ Creates a national adoption exchange to match special needs children with prospective adoptive families                                                                                                                                 |

CAPTA and other Federal Child Welfare Legislation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name of Federal Law / Act</th>
<th>Major Provisions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1988 | Child Abuse Prevention, Adoption, and Family Services Act | ▪ Emphasizes increasing the number of minority children being placed for adoption  
▪ Provides for post-adoption services to families whose children have special needs  
▪ Establishes a national data collection system (NCANDS) to include standardized data on false, unfounded, or unsubstantiated cases and the number of deaths due to child abuse and neglect  
▪ NCANDS: National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System is a voluntary national data collection and analysis system with two components:  
  ▪ Summary Data Component (SDC): compilation of key aggregate child abuse and neglect statistics from all states that submit data  
  ▪ Detailed Case Data Component (DCDC): compilation of case-level information from agencies able to provide electronic data  
  ○ Information you enter into Minnesota’s Social Services Information System (SSIS) is filtered into NCANDS |
| 1996 | Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Amendments | ▪ Expedites termination of parental rights proceedings for abandoned infants, and cases of parent-caused child death or serious bodily injury  
▪ Provides for state review of child fatalities and near fatalities |
| 2003 | Keeping Children and Families Safe Act | ▪ Mandates state policies and procedures for:  
  ● Addressing the needs of infants affected by prenatal drug exposure  
  ● Requiring child welfare workers to inform a person of the allegations and complaints against him or her at initial contact  
  ● Training child welfare workers to protect the legal rights and safety of children and families  
  ● Referring maltreated children under age three to early intervention services |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name of Federal Law / Act</th>
<th>Major Provisions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 2006 | Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act    | ▪ Requires fingerprint-based checks of prospective foster or adoptive parents against national crime information databases (NCID)  
▪ Requires checks of state child abuse and neglect registries for prospective foster or adoptive parents and any other adults living in the home in the preceding five years |