

AGENDA
Senate Committee on Children and Youth
House Committee on Aging, Children and Youth, and Legislative Affairs
Meeting Jointly

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

1:30 PM

Room A, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas

Sen. Ben Gilmore, Chair	Rep. Sonia Eubanks Barker, Chair	Rep. Jessie McGruder
Sen. Reginald Murdock, Vice-Chair	Rep. Mary Bentley, Vice-Chair	Rep. Lincoln Barnett
Sen. Alan Clark	Rep. Joy Springer	Rep. Paul Childress
Sen. Bart Hester	Rep. Rick McClure	Rep. Glenn Barnes
Sen. Dave Wallace	Rep. Keith Brooks	Rep. James Eaton
Sen. Breanne Davis	Rep. Tony Furman	Rep. Nick Burkes
Sen. Mark Johnson	Rep. Hope Duke	Rep. Diana Gonzales Worthen
Sen. Dan Sullivan	Rep. Joey L. Carr	Rep. Randy Torres
Sen. Bryan King	Rep. Matt Duffield	Rep. Jason Nazarenko
Sen. Jim Petty	Rep. Shad Pearce	Rep. Dolly Henley

- A. Call to Order
- B. Consideration to Approve December 10, 2025, Meeting Minutes **[Exhibit B]**
- C. Appointment to the Child Maltreatment Investigations Oversight Committee
- D. Arkansas Infant and Child Death Review (ICDR) Program Annual Report **[Exhibit D]**
 - 1. Laura Taylor, Director, ICDR
 - 2. Kevin Cleghorn, Chair, Arkansas Infant and Child Death Review State Panel
 - 3. Sherry Williamson, Member, Arkansas Infant and Child Death Review State Panel
- E. Discussion of HCR1010 by Representative Tara Shephard – Requesting the House Committee on Aging, Children and Youth, and Legislative Affairs and the Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth to Study Ways to Improve the State’s Juvenile Justice System for Youth Committed to the Division of Youth Services of the Department of Human Services **[Exhibit E]**
 - Comments by Sponsor Representative Tara Shephard
- F. Discussion of Compliance, Enforcement, and Implementation Concerning Arkansas Juvenile Code § 9-35-423 **[Exhibit F]**
 - 1. Senator Missy Irvin, District 24, Arkansas Senate
 - 2. The Honorable Rhonda K. Wood, Associate Justice, Arkansas Supreme Court
 - 3. The Honorable Kathie Hess, Circuit Judge, 1st Judicial District
 - 4. The Honorable Troy Braswell, Circuit Judge, 20th Judicial District
 - 5. Brooke Steen, Juvenile Division Director, Administrative Office of the Courts

Note: All exhibits for this meeting are available by electronic means and are accessible on the General Assembly's website at www.arkleg.state.ar.us

Notice: Silence your cell phones. Keep your personal conversations to a minimum. Observe restrictions designating areas as 'Members and Staff Only'.

G. Division of Youth Services (DYS) **[Exhibit G]**

- Michael Crump, Director, DYS

H. Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) **[Exhibit H]**

1. Courtney Salas-Ford, Chief of Staff, ADE
2. Stacy Smith, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, ADE

I. Discussion of Advocates Perspective for Juvenile Justice **[Exhibit I]**

1. Keesa Smith-Brantley, Executive Director, Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families
2. Dr. Fitz Hill, Pastor

J. Other Business

K. Adjournment