

**AUDIT SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES APPROVED BY THE
JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE ON JUNE 5, 2013**

2013-110 AUDIT SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES—Child Protective Services—Policies and Procedures for Seizing Children

AUDIT SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

The audit by the California State Auditor will provide independently developed and verified information related to Child Protective Services (CPS) agencies, and would include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Review and evaluate the laws, rules, and regulations significant to the audit objectives.
2. Determine and assess the policies, procedures, and processes county CPS agencies follow for removing a child, including the following:
 - a) Handling of complaints and investigations.
 - b) Evidentiary requirements.
 - c) Oversight structure and decision-making authority.
 - d) Process for returning children to their parents.
3. Determine how county CPS agencies determine the severity of risk to the child, and once determined, what actions they are required to take.
4. To the extent possible, determine county CPS agencies' and law enforcement's expenditure of state and federal funds for various actions, including removing children from their homes.
5. Identify whether best practices exist for determining the protection of children and coordinating with law enforcement.
6. Ascertain the protocols county CPS agencies follow for determining when to use law enforcement, including the removal of children from their homes and identify any procedures CPS agencies use in coordinating with law enforcement when making in-person visits.
7. Review and assess any other issues that are significant to CPS agencies' processes for removing children from their homes.