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MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE  
GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

**Reunification in Child Protective Services**

Approved Scope: July 20, 2022

At its meeting in August 2021, the Government Oversight Committee (GOC) approved the scope for OPEGA's review of Child Protective Services (CPS).<sup>1</sup> The Committee divided this comprehensive review project into three components: Oversight, Investigations, and Reunification. The Oversight and Investigations components were completed in January 2022 and March 2022, respectively.

OPEGA began preliminary research on Reunification in April 2022. On July 20, 2022, the GOC voted to direct OPEGA to proceed with fieldwork and to provide a full report to the 131st GOC to include the following components:

- Descriptions of the reunification process, the framework for reunification and other permanency decisions, and the roles and responsibilities of the various entities in the process; and
- The results of OPEGA's evaluative work consisting of our analysis of QA review results and narrative descriptions, and interviews with caseworkers and supervisors to identify reunification practice issues and potential root causes.

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<sup>1</sup> Review of Child Protective Services: Approved Scope. <https://legislature.maine.gov/doc/7043>