

# ESCARS

**THE FUTURE OF CHILD ABUSE REPORTING AND  
INVESTIGATION IN CALIFORNIA**



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# WHAT IS A SCAR?

Suspected Child Abuse Report (SCAR)  
California Department of Justice form *SS8572*  
Use is mandated throughout the state.  
Guiding statutory scheme is

# CANRA

Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act  
Penal Code § 11164 *et. seq.*

Print **SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE REPORT** Reset Form  
To Be Completed by Mandated Child Abuse Reporters Pursuant to Penal Code Section 11166  
CASE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

A. REPORTING PARTY	NAME OF MANDATED REPORTER	TITLE	MANDATED REPORTER CATEGORY	
	REPORTER'S BUSINESS/AGENCY NAME AND ADDRESS	Street	City	Zip
B. REPORT NOTIFICATION	REPORTER'S TELEPHONE (DAYTIME)	SIGNATURE	DID MANDATED REPORTER WITNESS THE INCIDENT? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	ADDRESS	Street	City	Zip
C. VICTIM <i>One report per victim</i>	AGENCY	DATE/TIME OF PHONE CALL	TELEPHONE	
	OFFICIAL CONTACTED - TITLE	NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)		
	ADDRESS	Street	City	Zip
	PRESENT LOCATION OF VICTIM	SCHOOL	CLASS	GRADE
D. INVOLVED PARTIES	PHYSICALLY DISABLED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	OTHER DISABILITY (SPECIFY)		PRIMARY LANGUAGE SPOKEN IN HOME	
E. INCIDENT INFORMATION	IF VICTIM WAS IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE AT TIME OF INCIDENT, CHECK TYPE OF CARE:		TYPE OF ABUSE (CHECK ONE OR MORE)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> DAY CARE <input type="checkbox"/> CHILD CARE CENTER <input type="checkbox"/> FOSTER FAMILY HOME <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY FRIEND		<input type="checkbox"/> PHYSICAL <input type="checkbox"/> MENTAL <input type="checkbox"/> SEXUAL <input type="checkbox"/> NEGLECT	
RELATIONSHIP TO SUSPECT		PHOTOS TAKEN? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	DID THE INCIDENT RESULT IN THIS VICTIM'S DEATH? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> LINK	
1. NAME BIRTHDATE SEX ETHNICITY		3. NAME BIRTHDATE SEX ETHNICITY		
2. NAME BIRTHDATE SEX ETHNICITY		4. NAME BIRTHDATE SEX ETHNICITY		
D. INVOLVED PARTIES	NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)		BIRTHDATE OR APPROX. AGE	
	ADDRESS		SEX ETHNICITY	
D. INVOLVED PARTIES	NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)		BIRTHDATE OR APPROX. AGE	
	ADDRESS		SEX ETHNICITY	
D. INVOLVED PARTIES	SUSPECT'S NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)		BIRTHDATE OR APPROX. AGE	
	ADDRESS		SEX ETHNICITY	
E. INCIDENT INFORMATION	OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION		TELEPHONE	
	IF NECESSARY, ATTACH EXTRA SHEET(S) OR OTHER FORM(S) AND CHECK THIS BOX <input type="checkbox"/> IF MULTIPLE VICTIMS, INDICATE NUMBER:			
DATE / TIME OF INCIDENT				
PLACE OF INCIDENT				
NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (What victim(s) said/what the mandated reporter observed/what person accompanying the victim(s) said/similar or past incidents involving the victim(s) or suspect)				

SS 8572 (Rev. 12/02)  
**DO NOT** submit a copy of this form to the Department of Justice (DOJ). The investigating agency is required under Penal Code Section 11169 to submit to DOJ a Child Abuse Investigation Report Form SS 8583 if (1) an active investigation was conducted and (2) the incident was determined not to be unfounded.  
WHITE COPY-Police or Sheriff's Department; BLUE COPY-County Welfare or Probation Department; GREEN COPY-District Attorney's Office; YELLOW COPY-Reporting Party

## POLL QUESTION # 1

- Have you used an electronic form to report suspected child abuse?

# CANRA

- Penal Code § 11164 et. seq.
- California legislature requires Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to cross-report allegations of suspected child abuse to each other and the District Attorney

## WHY?

*“to prevent cases from falling through the cracks”*

# WHAT GETS REPORTED

- Child victim
- Perpetrator is **ANY PERSON**
- Following types of abuse must be reported:
  - ✓ Physical Abuse
  - ✓ Sexual Abuse
  - ✓ Neglect
  - ✓ Emotional Abuse



## POLL QUESTION #2

- Does CPS in your area cross-report out-of-home abuse reports?

# WHAT IS ESCARS

- Launched in 2009
- Web-based application
- Electronic Suspected Child Abuse Report System

# ESCARS HISTORY

- LA County envisioned, created and currently utilizes ESCARS, which facilitates the mandated duty to cross-report allegations of suspected child abuse between all affected agencies in order to be in compliance with CANRA (PC §11166(a)).
- ESCARS assists in the elimination of errors and lengthy time delays that transpire when paper-based methods of reporting are employed, i.e., fax, mail, hand-sorting, etc.
- ESCARS also expedites the secure electronic transmission and receipt of SCARs amongst all relevant agencies.

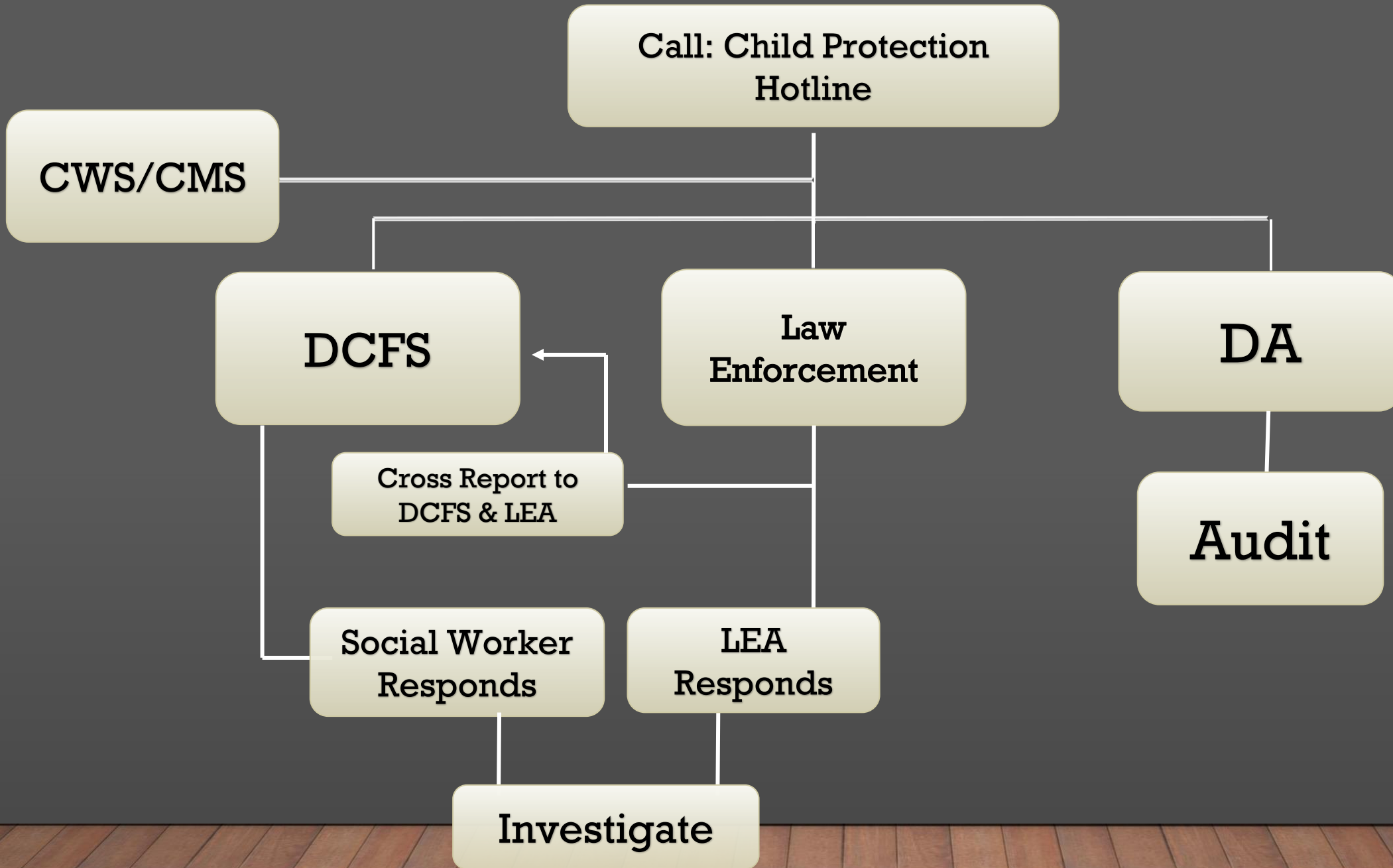


# ESCARS PURPOSE

- Separate but parallel investigations
  - ✓ ESCARS aids in parallel investigations by facilitating the transference of information between social workers and law enforcement
    - Potentially minimizing fewer victim interviews, as well as, more timely communication between relevant agencies
  - ✓ Provides an investigative tool for the victim and/or suspect
    - In-Home and Out-of-Home Abuse

# ESCARS PURPOSE

- The benefits of ESCARS include, but are not limited to:
  - ✓ Access to historical SCARs relating to either a victim/suspect from various jurisdictions within LA County
  - ✓ Ability to monitor the progress and status of a SCAR
  - ✓ Protect children by way of information sharing and teamwork
- Documents agency cross-reporting
  - ✓ Law Enforcement ↔ DCFS
  - ✓ Penal Code §§ 11164(j) & (k)



**Call: Child Protection Hotline**

**CWS/CMS**

**DCFS**

**Law Enforcement**

**DA**

**Cross Report to DCFS & LEA**

**Social Worker Responds**

**LEA Responds**

**Audit**

**Investigate**

# ESCARS PER YEAR

Los Angeles County Average

56,000

Every SCAR is a potential  
victim or witness

**THE BEST  
PREDICTOR OF  
FUTURE  
BEHAVIOR IS  
PAST BEHAVIOR**





## POLL QUESTION #3

- Should CPS/Law Enforcement look at ESCAR History when evaluating a report of suspected child abuse?

# SCAR HISTORY MAY PROVIDE

- Corroboration to your present case
- Additional victims
  - ✓ Who could become witnesses to your present case

*= more counts and higher sentences*



# SCAR HISTORY

- The impact of ESCARS on discovery investigation and prosecution of child abuse is exponentially significant when you consider how child abuse is perpetrated
- In an effort to prevent discovery of the abuse, abusers frequently:
  - ✓ Go to different hospitals
  - ✓ Change school districts
  - ✓ Move residences

## POLL QUESTION #4

- Should Medical Child Protection teams have access to ESCARS?



***Up close it looks like  
nothing.....***

*From above it's everything...*



*Reported allegations of child abuse will make it into ESCARS even if they wouldn't appear on a RAP sheet.*



"I TOLD  
AND NO ONE  
HELPED ME."



**ACTION STORY**







And there  
was  
another...

shhh...





# IF THERE WAS NO ESCARS

- Officer would not have known of the prior history
- The initial victim would not have been re-interviewed
- The third victim would have gone undiscovered
- The suspect may not have been charged with multiple felony counts of abuse

*This story may have had a different ending...*



# ELECTRONIC SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE REPORT SYSTEM

County of Los Angeles



LOG IN

[DCFS Registration](#)

[Forgot Password?](#)





# ELECTRONIC SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE REPORT SYSTEM

Welcome Vanessa Rizzo (DA Admin - District Attorney)

## eSCARS Dashboard

There are 4 unopened Child Fatality SCAR(s).

Date Range

August 7, 2018 - September 6, 2018

Organization

LEA

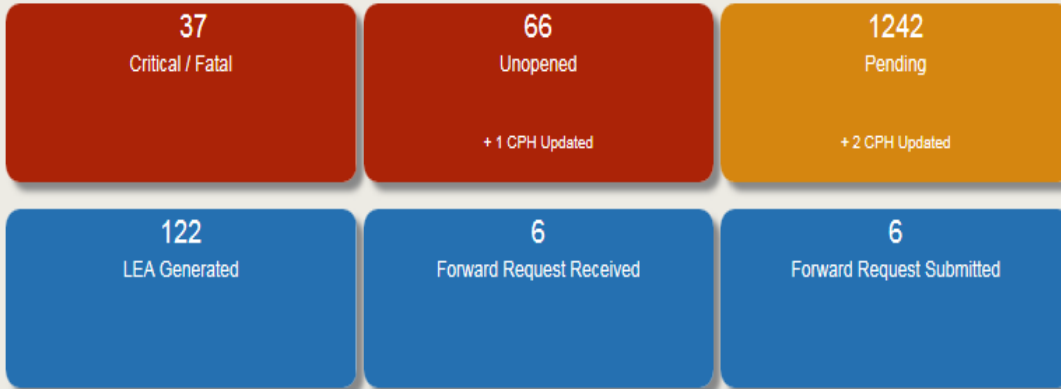
Agency

All LA County

Department

All

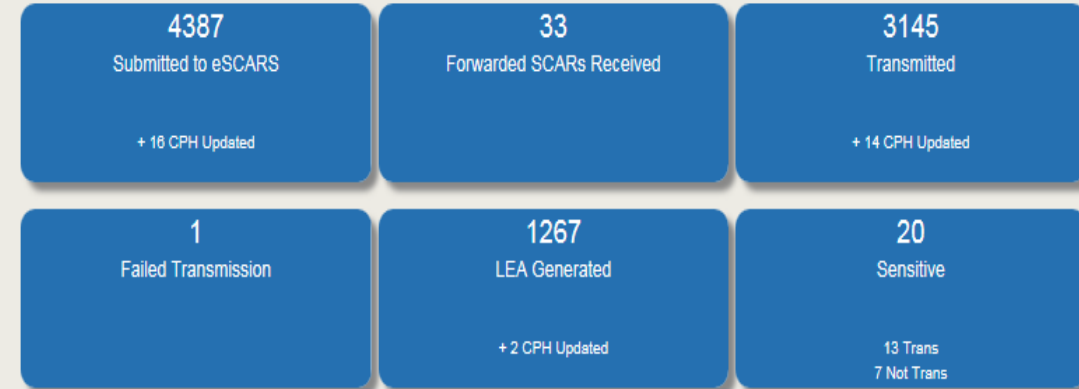
### Agency Status



### Agency Action



### Submission, Transmission and Routing



### Rerouted SCARs



# MULTIPLE SEARCH OPTIONS

Search Criteria

Referral Number

LEA Report Number

Transmission Status

LEA Decision Status

Sensitive

Child Fatality

CSEC

Sealed

Evaluated Out

Phonetic

**Victim**

Victim First Name

Victim Last Name

Victim Birth Date

Victim City

**Victim Mother**

Victim Mother First Name

Victim Mother Last Name

**Suspect**

Suspect First Name

Suspect Last Name

Suspect Birth Date

Reporter

Reporter First Name

Reporter Last Name

LEA Agency

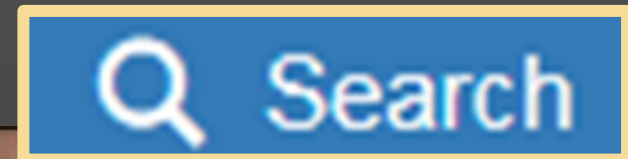
LEA Agency

Date Range

Start Date

End Date

- Search by:
  - ✓ SCAR number
  - ✓ LEA Report number
  - ✓ Victim Name with or without DOB
  - ✓ Victim's Mother's Name
  - ✓ Suspect Name with or without DOB





**ESCARS IS WHERE  
YOUR  
MULTIDISCIPLINARY  
TEAM MEETS**

# SCAR DETAILS PAGE

SCAR Details 462079

Expand all

Associated SCARs 3 | DCFS History 5 | SCAR Image | SCAR Log

### Profile

Referral ID: 1020 [Redacted] | Referral Name: Johnson [Redacted] | Submit Date: 3/3/2017 4:52:25 PM

Transmission: Transmitted | LEA Status: No Crime Suspected | [Set as Sensitive SCAR](#)

#### Reporting Party/Parties

NAME	TITLE	MANDATED REPORTER CATEGORY	BUSINESS/AGENCY NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER
[Redacted]			Garfield Elementary	[Redacted]	[Redacted]

+ Involved Parties

+ LEA Action

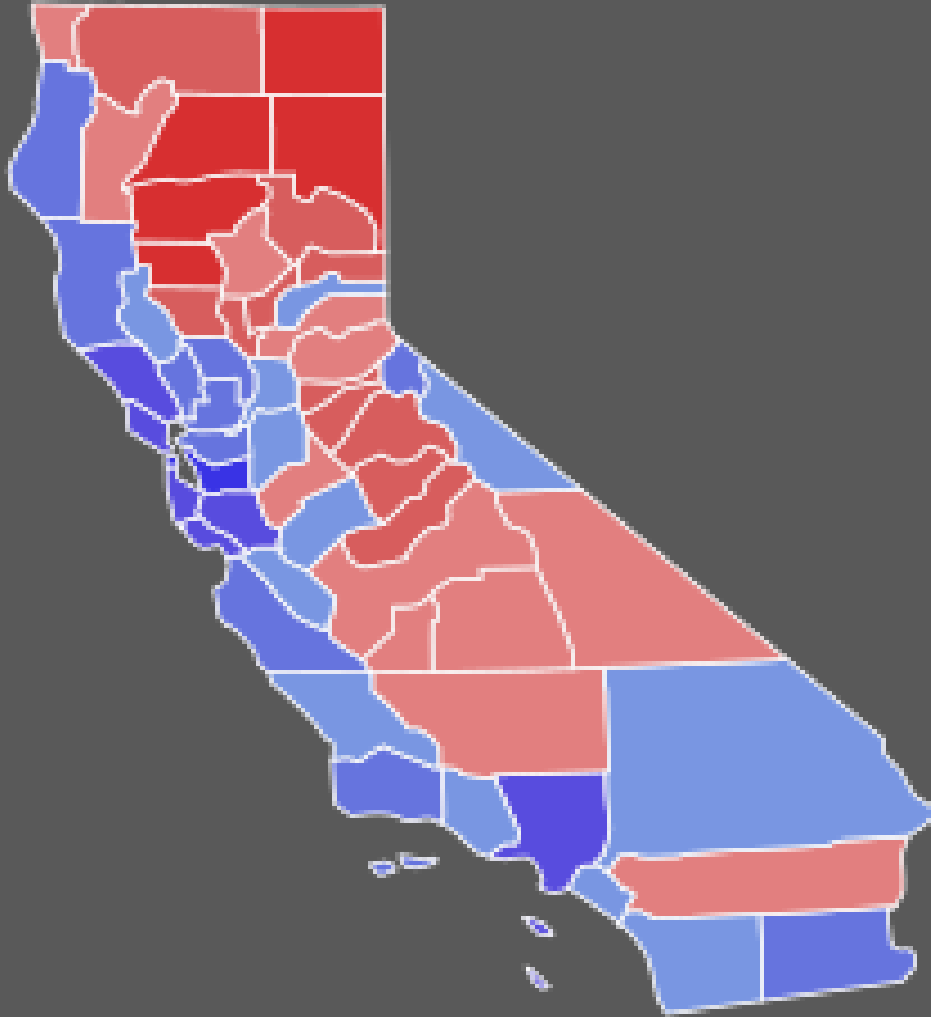
Collapsible tabs for each discipline

+ Comments

+ District Attorney

+ DCFS Conclusion

# EXPANSION OF ESCARS



- Fresno County
- Santa Barbara County
- Yolo County
- Sacramento County