

Law and Regulation

✦ **Law** is a series of rules that govern the behavior of people in a society, that allow for resolution of disputes between the members of a society and between individuals and the government, and that provide a means for the state to control the behavior of its citizens.

✦ **Statutory law** is enacted by the United States Congress or the legislatures of each state and signed into law by the president or state governor.

✦ **Administrative law** arises from governmental agencies that have rule-making authority delegated to them by Congress or the state legislature. These directives are issued by administrative agencies such as the United States Department of Health and Human Services and the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare.

✦ **Regulation** implements the law and has the full force and effect of law. Approval of regulation is a lengthy process which culminates with review by the Independent Regulatory Review Commission and Standing Committees of the Legislature before the final regulation is published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* with an effective date.

✦ **Bulletins** establish policy and procedure and provide guidance. Bulletins arise from the convening of a workgroup, development of a draft, and review by the workgroup. The Department of Public Welfare reviews and approves the Bulletin, which is signed by the Deputy Secretary.

✦ **Policy clarifications** provide further guidance regarding implementation of statute and regulation. They are requested by a public or private children and youth agency through their regional office of the Department of Public Welfare.

✦ **Special transmittals** are used to disseminate information and provide guidance. The transmittals are vehicles for sharing information, announcing a change in procedures of the Office of Children, Youth and Families, and/or announcing new initiatives. Some of the transmittals may be developed and reviewed by a stakeholder group or an ongoing, standing committee.