

Contents

1	Introduction to and Justification for the Book	1
	References.....	7
2	What Is Fatal Child Maltreatment?	9
2.1	What Constitutes Fatal Child Maltreatment?.....	10
2.2	How Children Die.....	12
2.2.1	Death by Physical Abuse.....	13
2.2.2	Death by Neglect—Supervision.....	13
2.2.3	Death by Neglect—Physical.....	15
2.2.4	Death by Neglect—Medical.....	15
2.2.5	Other and Multiple Forms of Maltreatment.....	16
2.3	How Many Children Die?.....	16
2.4	The Bottom Line.....	21
2.4.1	What We Know.....	21
2.4.2	What Remains Unknown.....	22
	References.....	22
3	Risk Factors for Fatal Maltreatment Victimization and Perpetration	27
3.1	Commonly Accepted Risk Factors.....	28
3.1.1	Child Age.....	28
3.1.2	Child Gender.....	29
3.1.3	Parent/Perpetrator Age.....	29
3.1.4	Socioeconomic Status.....	29
3.1.5	Household Risk Factors.....	30
3.2	Areas of Controversy.....	31
3.2.1	Perpetrator Characteristics.....	31
3.2.2	Prior Involvement with Child Welfare/Social Services.....	32
3.2.3	Race and Ethnicity of Victims and Perpetrators.....	33

- 3.2.4 Child Behavior, Knowledge of Child Development,
and the Parent-Child Relationship 35
 - 3.3 Unconfirmed Research 39
 - 3.3.1 Parent Mental Health..... 39
 - 3.3.2 Social Isolation..... 40
 - 3.3.3 Domestic Violence 40
 - 3.3.4 Child Disability Status 41
 - 3.4 The Bottom Line 41
 - 3.4.1 What We Know 41
 - 3.4.2 What Remains Unknown 42
 - References..... 43
- 4 The Intersection of the Child Welfare
Profession and Maltreatment Fatalities 47**
 - 4.1 Child Maltreatment Fatalities: Perceptions
and Experiences of Child Welfare Professionals Study 48
 - 4.1.1 CWWs’ Knowledge, Practice Concerns,
and Opinions About CMFs..... 48
 - 4.1.2 CWWs’ Knowledge of Risk Factors for CMFs..... 50
 - 4.1.3 Training About CMFs 51
 - 4.2 Workers Who Experience the Death
of a Child Client 53
 - 4.2.1 Handling of Case Prior to Fatality 55
 - 4.2.2 How Do Workers Miss Red Flags? 56
 - 4.3 The Aftermath of Child Maltreatment Fatalities 59
 - 4.3.1 Post-Traumatic Stress and Child Welfare..... 60
 - 4.3.2 Workers’ Response to Experiencing a CMF 61
 - 4.3.3 Supporting Workers After a CMF 62
 - 4.3.4 Support Provided After Fatality 63
 - 4.4 The Bottom Line 64
 - 4.4.1 What We Know 64
 - 4.4.2 What Remains Unknown 65
 - References..... 66
- 5 Child Death Review Teams..... 71**
 - 5.1 Child Death Review Teams..... 71
 - 5.2 Purpose and Composition of CDRTs 72
 - 5.3 Selection Criteria and the Review Process..... 74
 - 5.4 Outputs of Child Death Review Teams 75
 - 5.5 Wide Acceptance and Use of Child Death Review Teams..... 77
 - 5.6 Outcomes of Child Death Review Teams:
Controversy and Success..... 80
 - 5.6.1 Common Criticisms 80
 - 5.6.2 Lacking Evidence..... 81
 - 5.6.3 Bright Spots..... 83
 - 5.7 The Bottom Line 84
 - 5.7.1 What We Know 84

5.7.2	What Remains Unknown	84
	References.....	87
6	State Safe Haven Laws	91
6.1	The Problem of Abandoned and Discarded Infants	92
6.2	History of Infant Abandonment and Safe Haven Laws.....	94
6.2.1	The Specifics of Safe Haven Laws.....	95
6.3	What if Safe Haven Laws Did Not Exist?.....	100
6.4	Common Concerns About Safe Haven Laws	100
6.4.1	Efficacy of Safe Haven Laws	100
6.4.2	Too Little of the Wrong Thing, Too Late	101
6.4.3	Marketing of Safe Haven Laws.....	103
6.4.4	Rights of “Other” Parent	104
6.5	The Bottom Line	104
6.5.1	What We Know	104
6.5.2	What Remains Unknown	105
	References.....	106
7	Criminal Justice and Legal Reforms in Response to Fatal Child Maltreatment	109
7.1	The Scope of the Problem	110
7.1.1	Problems with Investigations	110
7.1.2	Limited Charges	111
7.1.3	Problems Persist into the Courtroom	112
7.2	Innovative Approaches at Multiple Levels.....	112
7.2.1	Changes in Investigative Techniques.....	112
7.2.2	Legal Responses to Increase Penalties for Child Abuse and Neglect Deaths	114
7.2.3	Special Legal Reforms in Response to Religiously-Motivated Medical Child Maltreatment Fatalities.....	116
7.3	Are Criminal Penalties Increasing?.....	118
7.4	The Bottom Line	122
7.4.1	What We Know	122
7.4.2	What Remains Unknown	122
	References.....	123
8	Prevention of Fatal Child Maltreatment: What Are We Doing That Is Working?	127
8.1	Levels of Prevention.....	127
8.2	Previous Recommendations to Prevent Maltreatment Fatalities.....	128
8.3	State and County Programs	128
8.4	Prevention Programs That Are Specific to Fatal Child Maltreatment	129
8.4.1	Shaken Baby Syndrome/Abusive Head Trauma	129
8.4.2	Supervision of Children	132
8.4.3	Safe Sleeping Environments for Children.....	135

8.5	Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, in General	135
8.5.1	Prevention Services	136
8.5.2	Parenting Education	138
8.6	The Bottom Line	140
8.6.1	What We Know	140
8.6.2	What Remains Unknown	141
	References.....	142
9	Conclusions and Recommendations Moving Forward	
	in the Arena of Fatal Child Maltreatment	149
9.1	The Need for More and Better Research.....	149
9.1.1	Incidence	150
9.1.2	More Complete Data Sources	150
9.1.3	Risk Factors.....	151
9.1.4	CMFs and Helping Professions.....	152
9.2	What's Working?.....	153
9.3	Child Welfare Profession—Crisis or Crossroads?	155
9.4	What if We Focused on the <i>Fatal</i> Part of a Child Maltreatment Fatality?	157
9.5	Is There Any Good News?	158
9.6	What Are the Final Recommendations?.....	160
	References.....	161
	Index.....	167