

Office of the Children's Ombudsman

Quarterly Report: Fiscal Year 2026, Q4

April 1, 2026 – June 30, 2026

The OCO has statutory authority to receive complaints regarding cases involving children who (i) are receiving child protective services, (ii) are in foster care, or (iii) are awaiting adoption.

The OCO can receive and investigate complaints alleging that an agency's action was:

- in violation of a law, rule, or policy;
- imposed without an adequate statement of reason; or
- based on irrelevant, immaterial, or erroneous grounds.

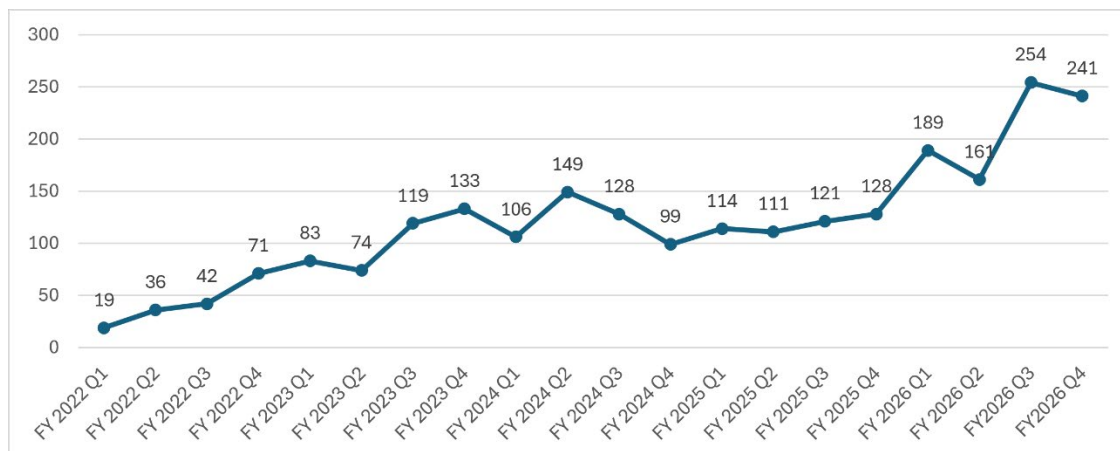
The OCO may investigate child fatality cases that occurred or are alleged to have occurred due to abuse or neglect of a child in the following situations:

- A child died during an active child protective services investigation or open services case, or there was a valid or invalid child protective services complaint within 12 months immediately preceding the child's death.
- A child died while in foster care, unless the death is determined to have resulted from natural causes and there were no prior child protective services or licensing complaints concerning the foster home.
- A child was returned home from foster care and there is an active foster care case.
- A foster care case involving the deceased child or sibling was closed within 24 months immediately preceding the child's death.

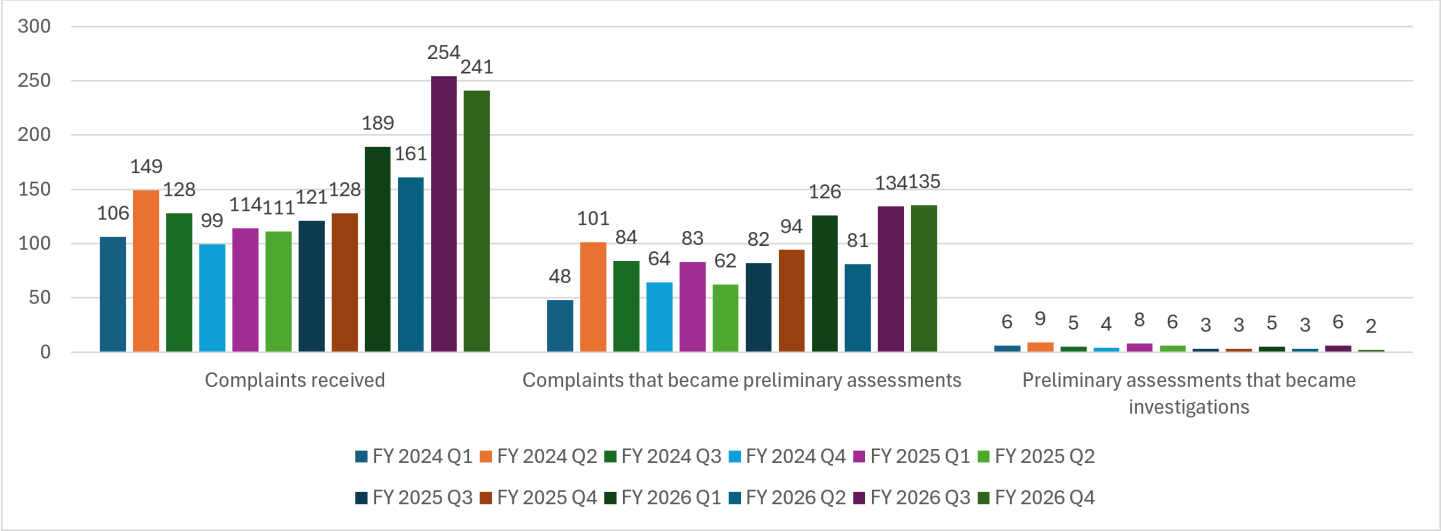
Total **Complaints** received in FY 2026, Q4: **241**

Total **Notifications of Child Fatalities** in Q4 FY 2026: **24**

Number of complaints received per quarter since FY 2022:



The chart below reflects the path that complaints take during a particular quarter. This shows the number of complaints received during that quarter that became preliminary assessments, and the number of preliminary assessments that became an investigation during each quarter.



Case Closures During FY 2026, Q4

(includes cases opened prior to FY 2026, Q4)

- The OCO concluded **223** cases.
- Average case age (time between date received and date concluded): **54** days.
- The OCO concluded **123** preliminary assessments and **7** investigations.

Number of child fatalities notifications received per quarter since FY 2022:

