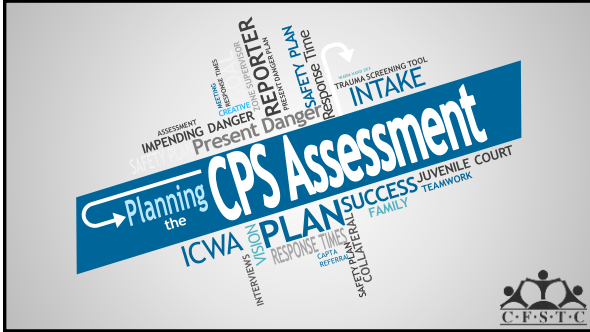




1



2

Centralized Intake in ND

Mandated Reporters

- Professionals having knowledge of or reasonable cause to suspect that a child is abused or neglected or has died as a result of abuse or neglect, must make a report of the circumstances.
 - physician, nurse, dentist, optometrist, dental hygienist, medical examiner, coroner, or any other medical professional
 - mental health professional
 - religious practitioner of the healing arts
 - school teacher or administrator, school counselor
 - addiction counselor
 - social worker

3

Centralized Intake in ND

Mandated Reporters- cont.

- any childcare worker
- foster care provider
- police or law enforcement officer
- Juvenile court personnel, probation officer, Division of Juvenile Services employee
- member of the clergy
- Any person having reasonable cause to suspect that a child is abused or neglected, or has died as a result of abuse or neglect, may report such circumstances

4

Centralized Intake in ND

- Individuals who suspect a child is being abused or neglected in North Dakota should call 833-958-3500, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Central Time (7 a.m. – 4 p.m. Mountain Time) to make a report.
- As a mandated reporter, you are required to follow up with a written report within 48 hours
- If a child is in immediate danger, people should call 9-1-1.

5

Tasks to complete at Intake

- Review the information received – Does it meet the criteria to assign to a worker?
- Conduct & Document Records Check in FRAME
- Complete any necessary missing information
- Check ND Courts for criminal history or pending charges re: subject
- Request any records for the assessment worker
- If ICWA is applicable, contact tribe re: jurisdiction.

6

Tasks to complete at Intake

- Should the report be referred to law enforcement ?
- Is this a joint assessment with Childcare licensing, Foster Care Provider licensing, Air Force Base Family Advocacy?
- Is this a report on a staff member at a school? If so, refer to Institutional CPS staff.
- What type of assessment response is required?

7

3 Assessment Response Types:



Child Protection Assessment

Fact finding process designed to provide information that enables a determination of whether a child meets the definition of an abused or neglected child



Alternative Response Assessment

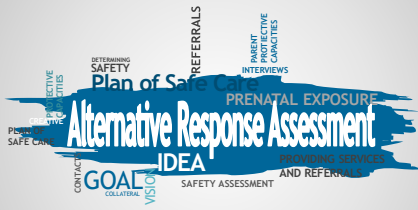
A child protection response involving a substance exposed infant (< 365 days). Designed to provide referral services to and monitor support services for the SEI And their caregivers, and to develop a plan of safe care for the SEI



Family Services Assessment

A child protection response to "low risk" reports that do not identify present or impending danger; safety concerns for the child(ren) are not evident

8



Alternative Response Assessment

9

Alternative Response can be offered when...

- Caregiver is engaged already in service plan and the development of a Plan of Safe Care
- Infant Birth is **within the first year of life** and there are no prior reports of maltreatment
- No previous abuse/neglect – there are no previous reports of the caregiver were AA, Terminated in Progress or had a no services required finding
- Prenatal Exposure- concerns reports involved only prenatal exposure to abuse or alcohol or controlled substance and there were no other children involved where there were concerns of abuse and/or neglect.

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Alternative Response Assessment

Key Elements of Alternative Response Assessment:

- 1. Plan of Safe Care**
Develop a plan of safe care for the substance exposed infant and their caregiver(s). This requires safety support individuals to be a part of the plan.
- 2. Provide Referral Services**
Provide referral services and monitor support services for a person responsible for the child's welfare and the substance exposed infant.
- 3. No Maltreatment Decision**
An AR assessment does not result in a maltreatment decision. There is no determination about services being needed for the protection and treatment of an abused child.

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Alternative Response can be offered when...

- Completed prior services for neglect - There was a previous SR determination for neglect and the parent followed through with required services, working successfully with the case manager.
- No caregiver limitations - The parent has no intellectual limitations that may impair the parent's ability to nurture or physically care for the child. Any major psychiatric illness is controlled with medication.
- No Domestic Violence - There is no current or recent history (within 6 months) of domestic violence in the home with the current partner.
- First Baby - There has been a previous pregnant woman's assessment and the mother engaged in service planning and development of a Plan of Safe Care

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When can a report be assigned for a Family Services Assessment?

- The child is determined to be at low risk of harm/maltreatment and unlikely to create a state of danger for the child(ren)
- Parent/caregivers have sufficient protective capacities to assure basic safety and supervision.
- Safety concerns for the child are not evident- all children are age 5 or older



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Family Services Assessments How are they different?

- The visit usually takes place in the family home with all household members present and is more like a family meeting.
- The CPS Worker shares with the family about the concerns that were reported. While there is discussion about the report, there is also discussion about problems, concerns and needs the family, both parents and children, may have.
- The CPS Worker provides family members with helpful information about programs and services and resources that might be helpful to address the identified family needs.
- If the family agrees to follow through with activities and helpful services to remedy family problems, a Family Prevention Plan may be developed.
- In a Family Services Assessment, no determination is made whether a caregiver abused or neglected a child, the family simply completes services to strengthen their family.

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When is a family not appropriate for a Family Services Assessment?

- When the family already has an open Child Protection assessment
- Reported Present Danger or Impending Danger Threats are present
- Reports concerning a foster child, or a child placed in relative or kinship care, or with an alternate caregiver
- HS2 had prior custody of child living in the home and the case was closed within the last two years
- Reports of sexual abuse, sex trafficking, physical abuse (includes excessive physical discipline), medical neglect, near death and child fatalities
- Reported concerns involve manufacturing or distribution of illegal substances or involve an active drug raid
- Suspected child victim under age 5
- Report includes a weapon (gun, knife, or other potentially deadly weapon) and has been used to threaten or harm anyone in the home

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16

[illegible]

When is a family not appropriate for a Family Services Assessment?

- Any history of fatal abuse, fatal neglect, or unexplained/undetermined child fatality
- Subject of a previous Services Required/Confirmed CPS decision in the last two years (exception for maltreatment of Educational Neglect)
- Subject is currently listed on the Child Abuse and Neglect Index for physical or sexual abuse
- Subject of a previous Unable to Determine decision
- Multiple previous reports indicating an escalating pattern of abuse and neglect
- A current household member is a registered sex offender or offender against children.

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[illegible]

18

[illegible]

Elements of an Assessment Plan Include the following tasks:

- Contact the reporter for any additional information needed;
- Check the nature of the report and anticipate assessment response times;
- Consider/obtain law enforcement, state's attorney, and/or Juvenile Court assistance;
- Locate the family and/or caregivers named in the report;
- Interview victim, any siblings, and other children living in the home.
- Plan interviews with family and collateral sources.



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Review the Report:

Analyzing the information determines the type and immediacy of the response and shapes the planning of the CPS assessment.

- Emergency /Immediate Response
- Response Time A- within 24 hrs
- Response Time B- within 72 hours
- Response Time C - within 14 days



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Safety Assessment

Is there Present Danger? What does the Present Danger plan look like?

Additional considerations:

- Emergency Medical or Psychiatric treatment, or Hospitalization
Physicians are authorized to keep a child in protective custody for up to 96 hours
- Temporary Protective Custody and placement of the child outside the home. A hearing must be held within 96 hours to determine if ongoing care is necessary.
(This can take place at the direction of Law Enforcement placement through an order of the court)



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Planning for interviews & Gathering information

- Who may be appropriate and necessary collateral contacts involved with this family to contact?
- Will there be a referral for forensic interview at Children's Advocacy Center?
- Does the child need medical attention, exam, testing?
- Will there be a need for photographs?
- Does ICWA apply?
 - Document any information
 - Contact the tribe- Submit inquiry form within 2 days of knowledge of potential affiliation
 - Inform the court
 - How does ICWA impact the decisions?



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Considerations

- Who do I need to contact beyond the child and parent?? What additional information do I need?
 - Subject(s)
 - Collateral Sources - teachers or other school officials, childcare providers, medical personnel, law enforcement, relatives, neighbors
 - Reports- do I need to review police reports, previous child abuse and neglect assessments...
 - Evaluations- mental health, addiction records...
 - Records- medical records, school attendance...



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Considerations

- Who should be interviewed and in what order?
 - Does order matter in this situation? Why or why not?
- Where should interviews take place?
 - Consideration around interviews taking place at the school
- Am I ready to meet with the parent/subject?
 - It is essential that you meet with both parents- should you interview them together or separate?
 - Is an unannounced visit necessary or can you call/send letter and schedule an appointment?
- Do I have necessary Release of Information Authorization forms? When is this necessary?



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Analyzing Data

Do I have all of the information that I need? We must determine two things:

- Is Maltreatment Present?
- Is the child (ren) safe? If there is Impending Danger, have I determined if an in home or out of home safety plan will control for safety?
- Present Information to Field Services Specialists and Zone Supervisors for a collaborative discussion. All Confirmed Maltreatment cases must be staffed with a Field Service Specialists.



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Closure of the Assessment

•Notification of subject and non-subject – must be mailed within 7 days of the assessment decision

•Notification of mandated reporter

•Written report is complete & submitted through FRAME

•Referral to Juvenile Court

•Notification of Tribal Social Services/ICWA

•CAPTA referral (Early Intervention Services)

•Trauma Screening Tool

•Full Kit complete and handed off if applicable

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Next Steps: Notification Letter

The purpose of the Notification Letter:

•The subject notification letter begins the steps taken to provide a subject with "due process" around the Confirmed decision.

•The notification letter serves to bridge the assessment and follow-up services offered by the agency.

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Next Steps: Notification Letter

- The information must be sufficient for the subject to defend themselves against the decision.
- The subject must be told the who/what/when/etc that led to the Confirmed decision to be made.
- Letters must be individualized to each subject.
- Notification must be face-to-face and in writing.

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Child Abuse & Neglect Index

Key points regarding the Index:

- The subject's name on any confirmed findings will go on Child Abuse Information Index
- The Index is not a public record
- The Index cannot be accessed through any public website
- Information from the Index can be released under the provisions of state law or with the subject's signed consent



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Child Abuse & Neglect Index Time Frames

As of August 1st, 2023, Confirmed cases for Educational Neglect only will not be on the index.

As of April 1, 2024 Additional Index Changes were made:
 Tier 1 – 25 years
 Tier 2 -- 7 years
 Tier 3 – 3 years

SUBJECTS ALREADY ON THE INDEX PRIOR TO APRIL 1, 2024 WILL NOT CHANGE



30



Appeal Timeline and Location of the Appeal Form

Explain the right to appeal the decision:

- Right to appeal
- 33 days from the date on the affidavit of mailing
- Location of the form

Please note that all recipients also receive an appeal insert, explaining in detail, the process.



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THANK YOU

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