

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P. O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

December 11, 2006

**What's Inside:**

Revised policy for making determinations for emotional maltreatment allegations in investigations

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: REGIONAL EXECUTIVE STAFF, CIRCUIT MANAGERS, AND CHILDREN'S DIVISION STAFF

FROM: PAULA NEESE, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: EMOTIONAL MALTREATMENT DETERMINATIONS

## DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this memorandum is to clarify policy for the investigation response in making determinations on emotional maltreatment allegations. Previous policy inferred that a psychological or psychiatric evaluation was required in making that determination, limiting providers for this service to psychologists or psychiatrists. This revision modifies the terms psychological or psychiatric evaluation to a current mental health assessment or mental health evaluation conducted by a qualified mental health professional.

For the purpose of emotional maltreatment determinations, a qualified mental health professional means that a current mental health assessment must have been conducted by a Psychologist, a Psychiatrist, Psychiatric Clinical Nurse Specialist (PCNS), a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) or a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC). The mental health assessment must specify the level of the child's dysfunction, and to a reasonable medical certainty, whether the dysfunction is causally linked to the acts or omissions of the parent/caretaker.

**Payments for a Mental Health Assessment or Evaluation to Determine Evidence of Emotional Maltreatment:**

1. If the child is Medicaid eligible, staff should make every effort to arrange for the mental health assessment or evaluation with a Medicaid provider.
2. If it is determined that the child is not eligible for Medicaid and/or no Medicaid provider is available, staff should contact a CTS provider to complete the assessment.
3. If it is determined that no CTS provider contracted for assessment or evaluation is available to provide the services staff will:

- Select any non-CTS Psychologist, Psychiatrist, Psychiatric Clinical Nurse Specialist (PCNS), Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) or Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) or LCSW to provide the appropriate assessment.
4. If a non-CTS provider is willing to provide the service staff must:
    - Contact the contract management unit and request a contract be sent to the provider prior to the mental health assessment being conducted.
    - Once the provider signs and returns the CTS contract to contract management the provider may be used to provide the service.
  5. Payment for mental health assessments or evaluations may be authorized and paid through SEAS if the CS-67A is entered in SEAS on a timely basis. If the CS-67A is not entered in the SEAS on a timely basis, a CS-65 should be completed and sent to the CD Payment Unit.
  6. When a provider has a contract, only the contracted rate, or less, can be paid. Staff should check the Contract System to obtain each contracted provider's rates.

**NECESSARY ACTION:**

1. Review this memorandum with all Children's Division staff.
2. Review revised Child Welfare Manual chapters as indicated below.
3. All questions should be cleared through normal supervisory channels and directed to:

**PDS CONTACT:**

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**CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS:**

[Section 2, Chapter 4, Attachment A](#) SAFE-CARE (Sexual Assault Forensic Examination- Child Abuse Resource and Education) Network  
[Section 7, Chapter 33](#) Emotional Maltreatment

**RELATED STATUTE:**

[Chapter 210 RSMo.](#)