

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P.O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

September 30, 2009

What's Inside:
Updated Policy Regarding the
Interview of Alleged Perpetrators

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: PAULA NEESE, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: UPDATED POLICY REGARDING THE INTERVIEW OF
ALLEGED PERPETRATORS

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform staff that an update has been made to [Section 2 Chapter 4.1.4.5 Investigation Response](#) within the Child Welfare Manual which pertains to the interviewing of alleged perpetrators in conjunction with Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations. Staff shall interview every alleged perpetrator, or ensure that every alleged perpetrator is offered an opportunity to speak to the allegations during a co-investigation with law enforcement. In some instances, law enforcement may assume the lead role and conduct the alleged perpetrator interview. Staff should request the assistance of other county offices and/or law enforcement agencies as necessary.

If an alleged perpetrator is in the custody of law enforcement, including those in the custody of the State Technical Assistance Team (STAT), and Division staff question the person about the allegations presented in the CA/N, it may adversely impact the criminal prosecution. Division staff should work with their multidisciplinary team to develop local protocols for interviewing alleged perpetrators who are in the custody of law enforcement including law enforcement's issuance of Miranda rights to the alleged perpetrator prior to an interview conducted with Division staff present.

NECESSARY ACTIONS:

1. Please review this memorandum with all Children's Division Staff.
2. Review all updates to the Child Welfare Manual.
3. All questions should be cleared through normal supervisory channels and directed to:

PDS CONTACT: Scott B. Montgomery, PDS 573-526-5408 Scott.B.Montgomery@dss.mo.gov	UNIT MANAGER Dena Driver 573-751-3171 Dena.Driver@dss.mo.gov
CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS: Section 2 Chapter 4.1.4.5 Investigation Response	
FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS N/A	
REFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES N/A	
RELATED STATUTE:	
ADMINISTRATIVE RULE N/A	
COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION (COA) STANDARDS N/A	
CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEW (CFSR) N/A	
PROTECTIVE FACTORS Parental Resilience-N/A Social Connections-N/A Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development-N/A Concrete Support in Times of Need-N/A Social and Emotional Competence of Children-N/A	
FACES REQUIREMENTS N/A	