

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P. O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

August 31, 2015

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: REGIONAL DIRECTORS, FIELD SUPPORT MANAGERS,
CIRCUIT MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS

FROM: TIM DECKER, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: SENATE BILL 341, CHILDREN WITH PROBLEM SEXUAL
BEHAVIORS

What's Inside:

- SB341: Children with Problem Sexual Behaviors
- Child Reporters

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this memorandum is to introduce staff to [Senate Bill 341](#) that was passed in the 2015 legislative session. These changes will go into effect August 28, 2015. In June 2015, a workgroup consisting of Children's Division staff and numerous stakeholders convened to develop policy and procedures to support this legislation. This work group will continue to meet after implementation to refine policy as needed with the input of field staff.

Child Problem Sexual Behavior Reports

Senate Bill 341 requires the Children's Division to utilize a family assessment and services approach when reports are received containing concerns of children with problem sexual behaviors. Senate Bill 341 defines a child with problem sexual behavior as 'any person, under fourteen years of age, who has allegedly committed sexual abuse against another child'. These reports will be screened in by the Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline Unit when any child under the age of fourteen (14) is alleged to have committed an act of sexual abuse against any person under the age of eighteen (18).

Historically, these reports have been classified as non-caretaker referrals which the Division referred to the juvenile office and/or law enforcement for investigation of potential delinquent acts. The intent of Senate Bill 341 is to provide an avenue for intervention and treatment for these children.

Six full-time employee (FTE) positions (specialized workers) were allocated to assist the Division in the implementation of Senate Bill 341. One specialized worker will be based in each region, with the exception of the Northern Region, which has been allocated two positions. Initially, the six specialized workers will be completing these reports. Back-up staff will also be identified in each region to assist the six specialized workers.

Field staff should familiarize themselves with Section 2 Chapter 10 of the Child Welfare Manual in the event they are called upon to assist in the completion of these reports. There will be times, especially during on-call hours and emergencies in which field staff will be required to assist in assuring child safety and the completion of these reports. A Talking Points and Tips Sheet has been created for field staff when they are assisting with problem sexual behavior reports.

Child problem sexual behavior reports will be alerted to the county office. When a caller reports concerns of child problem sexual behavior, CANHU will flag the non-caretaker referral as a Juvenile Report on the CA/N-1. Each office will be required to designate staff to act as liaisons to the six specialized workers and their backups. The liaisons will be required to alert the specialized workers assigned to their region when a child problem sexual behavior report is received. The liaison will also assist in the coordination of any necessary field assistance from the county office.

Staff will be able to delete the Juvenile Report flag on the conclusion screen if they identify that the child is 14 or above. Staff also have the ability to add the Juvenile Report flag on the conclusion screen if, upon receiving a non-caretaker referral, staff identify the child is below the age of fourteen (14).

The children with problem sexual behavior reports will be entered in FACES in the same manner as a non-caretaker referral. When the child problem sexual behavior is the only concern, the specialized worker shall document their contacts in FACES, complete the Children with Problem Sexual Behaviors Assessment Tool, CD-214, and the Children with Problem Sexual Behaviors Safety Plan, CD-215.

When there are concerns of child problem sexual behavior contained within a report of child abuse and neglect, the report will be alerted to the field as one report. The Child Abuse/Neglect Investigation/Family Assessment Summary, CPS-1, the Children with Problem Sexual Behaviors Assessment Tool, CD-214, and the Children with Problem Sexual Behaviors Safety Plan, CD-215 should all be completed. Supervisory discretion should be used to determine whether field staff or the specialized worker will complete the child problem sexual behavior portion of these reports.

If it is determined the child with problem sexual behaviors had care, custody, and control of the victim child, the response track should be changed to an investigation by contacting CANHU to set up a new CA/N-1. The worker assigned to the child report and the local office liaison should together decide whether the report will be assigned to field staff.

If the family is referred for Family-Centered Services, the Children's Service Worker who completed the child problem sexual behavior report should set the risk level based on the needs of the family at the time of the referral. The Children's Service Worker should document in the conclusion screen the reason(s) for the risk determination.

Child Reporters

Senate Bill 341 also requires each school to post signs containing a child-friendly acronym for the Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline. Posters are available for schools to download at <http://dss.mo.gov/cd/can.htm>. This will likely result in an increase in the

number of child abuse and neglect reports made by children. Pursuant to [§210.145.6, RSMo](#), parental notification is required, prior to contacting the child reporter, unless the alleged perpetrator is a parent of the child.

NECESSARY ACTION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Kara Wilcox-Bauer 573-526-9707 Kara.B.Wilcox-Bauer@dss.mo.gov	PROGRAM MANAGER Christy Collins 573-751-3171 Christy.M.Collins@dss.mo.gov
CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS Section 2, Chapter 1.1, Child Abuse/Neglect (CA/N) Reports Section 2, Chapter 1.2.2, Non-Caretaker Referrals Section 2, Chapter 2.1, Reports Received at the Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline Unit (CANHU) Section 2, Chapter 2.2, Response Priority Levels Section 2, Chapter 2.3, Response Track Section 2, Chapter 2, Attachment F, Determining Appropriate CA/N Repots Section 2, Chapter 3.1, Reports Received at the County Office Section 2, Chapter 10, Children with Problem Sexual Behaviors	
FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS Children with Problem Sexual Behaviors Assessment Tool (CD-214) Children with Problem Sexual Behaviors Safety Plan (CD-215) Description of the Children with Problem Sexual Behaviors Assessment (CS-24c)	
REFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES Talking Points for Children with Problem Sexual Behaviors Assessments	
RELATED STATUTE Section 210.148 Section 160.975	
ADMINISTRATIVE RULE - N/A	
COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION (COA) STANDARDS - N/A	
CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEW (CFSR) - N/A	
PROTECTIVE FACTORS – N/A Parental Resilience Social Connections	

Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development
Concrete Support in Times of Need
Social and Emotional Competence of Children

FACES REQUIREMENTS

As discussed in the content of this memorandum