



Practice Alert

Involvement of the State Technical Assistance Team (STAT)

STAT's involvement in Children's Division cases is appropriate when deemed necessary; however, their involvement is not a substitute for the Children's Division. STAT's involvement **does not** relieve a Children's Service Worker of their responsibilities to investigate reports of child abuse and neglect, to make appropriate contact with families, and to assume responsibility for the initial and on-going safety assurances of children during the investigation.

When working with STAT, the Children's Service Worker is still responsible for conducting a thorough investigation in accordance with Children's Division policy, including:

- Notifying law enforcement of the report
- Assuring child safety
- Making contact with family members and alleged perpetrator(s)
(note: the Children's Service Worker may cooperate with STAT and/or Law Enforcement as to who will conduct the interview with the alleged perpetrator or other parties)
- Reaching a conclusion and documenting the finding in FACES
- All other duties required by Children's Division policy when conducting an investigation

Note: If STAT and/or Law Enforcement are involved, the agencies may cooperate regarding certain actions taken during the investigation (such as who will conduct the perpetrator interview). However, the Children's Division is responsible for all on-going safety planning and monitoring.