

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P. O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: CHILDREN'S DIVISION AND CONTRACTED STAFF  
FROM: JOANIE ROGERS, DIRECTOR  
SUBJECT: PROTECTING FOSTER YOUTH FROM SECONDHAND SMOKE EXPOSURE

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this memorandum is to introduce a new approach to promote good health for foster youth. If there are smokers in the resource home, the plan to protect foster youth from secondhand smoke exposure is to be included in the Home Assessment. A Power Point, Protecting Foster Youth from Secondhand Smoke Exposure, is to be viewed by all resource parents prior to licensure or approval to provide foster care services.

There are currently eighteen states that require foster homes to be smoke free through legislation and policy.

The following conditions have been linked to secondhand smoke exposure in children:

- SIDS
- More respiratory infections such as bronchitis and pneumonia
- More severe and frequent asthma attacks
- Ear infections
- Chronic Cough
- Tooth decay
- Long term effects including
  - Poor lung development
  - Lung Cancer
  - Heart Disease
  - Cataracts

Missouri Law tasks the Children's Division with placing youth in the division's care and custody, in homes that safeguard and promote their present and continuing good health and in homes that will not commit any act or engage in any conduct that would be injurious to the child's health.

A new training to educate resource providers about exposure to secondhand smoke is now required. The Power Point presentation is self-taught and is located on the Children’s Division Foster Parent Information internet page. All new resource applicants for providing foster care services must complete the training prior to licensure or approval. Currently licensed and approved resource providers may complete the training and receive a **two hour in service training credit** using code V113, Secondhand Smoke Exposure.

The Notification of Hazards (CD-101) has been revised to include a checkbox to indicate which household members are smokers. Currently licensed and approved resource providers who smoke or have any individual living in the home who smokes will need to complete the CD-101 at time of renewal.

If any household member is a smoker, the plan to protect the foster youth from second hand smoke exposure is to be discussed. Refer the family to the required pre-service video, Protecting Foster Youth from Second Hand Smoke Exposure. Discuss with the resource parent(s) role model of making health choices. This information as well as a plan to protect foster youth from second hand smoke exposure is captured in the Health Status section of the Home Assessment.

<b>NECESSARY ACTION</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review this memorandum with all Children’s Division staff.</li> <li>2. Review revised Child Welfare Manual chapters as indicated below.</li> <li>3. All questions should be cleared through normal supervisory channels and directed to:</li> </ol>	
<b>PDS CONTACT</b> Melissa Selsor 573-522-1191 <a href="mailto:Melissa.J.Selsor@dss.mo.gov">Melissa.J.Selsor@dss.mo.gov</a>	<b>MANAGER CONTACT</b> Amy Martin 573-526-8040 <a href="mailto:Amy.L.Martin@dss.mo.gov">Amy.L.Martin@dss.mo.gov</a>
<b>CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS</b> <b>Respite Care Recruitment and Retention 4.17.3</b> <b>Respite Care Case Recording 4.17.9</b> <b>Recording Guidelines and Record Composition – Resource Provider Records 5.1.6.1</b> <b>Resource Provider Training, Working with Prospective Foster/Adoptive Parents 6.2.2</b> <b>Guide for Conducting Resource Provider Family Assessments 6.3.A</b> <b>Resource Provider Family Assessment Recording Outline 6.3.C</b> <b>Conducting Resource Home Renewal 6.3.5</b> <b>Resource Development Worker Responsibilities 6.13.1</b>	
<b>FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS</b> <b>Notification of Hazards, CD-101</b>	
<b>REFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES</b> (List or put N/A if not applicable.) Protecting Foster Youth from Second Hand Smoke Exposure	

Dangers of Children Exposed to Second Hand Smoke

<http://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/tobacco/Pages/Dangers-of-Secondhand-smoke.aspx>

Surgeon General's Report, <http://www.njgasp.org/chronic-disease-diabetes-tobacco/surgeon-general-reports /2014-u-s-surgeon-general-report/>

**RELATED STATUTE**

(List or put N/A if not applicable.)

210.109 (5)

210.506 (2)

211.183 (2)

211.421