



Practice Points

Out-of-State Reports

Pursuant to Section 210.145, RSMo., the Children's Division may accept a CA/N report if either the child or alleged perpetrator resides in Missouri, may be found in Missouri, or if the incident occurred in Missouri. If the Children's Division receives a report in which neither the child nor the alleged perpetrator resides in Missouri or may be found in Missouri and the incident did not occur in Missouri, the Children's Division shall document the report and communicate it to the appropriate agency or agencies in the state where the child is believed to be located, along with any relevant information or records as may be contained in the Children's Division's information system.

Therefore, the Children's Division has the authority to conduct CA/N reports, and make findings, in **most** situations involving another state. The Children's Division maintains a commitment to keeping Missouri children safe and holding perpetrators accountable when an act of child abuse and neglect is committed within the state.

Out of state reports are screened in at the Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline Unit (CANHU) if the child's location and incident are in another state, but the residence is in Missouri if the child will be returning. CANHU will also accept a report if the incident and alleged perpetrator are in Missouri and the child's location out of state is known. CANHU does not accept a CA/N report if it is known at the time of the call that the other state also has a report. If the assigned worker determines that a report should not have been screened in based on this criteria, the Located Out-of-State conclusion is appropriate. Staff must ensure there is a CA/N report in the other state.

Example: A report is screened in alleging abuse of a child located in Missouri with the incident occurring in another state. Upon initiating the report, the worker discovers the child is currently in another state and will not be returning to Missouri. The worker makes a hotline to the other state and concludes the report as Located Out-of-State.

The Located Out-of-State conclusion should **not** be used when the incident occurred in Missouri. The exception to this is when the alleged perpetrator and the victim child(ren) reside in another state. In this situation, the Located Out-of-State conclusion may be appropriate **only** if a child abuse/neglect hotline is accepted in the other state.

Example: A report is screened in alleging abuse occurred in Missouri while the victim child and alleged perpetrator were visiting from another state. The family has returned to their state of residence. The worker makes a hotline to the other state, but it is not accepted. The Located Out-of-State conclusion is not appropriate, and the worker completes the report.

For Investigations where the incident occurred in another state, staff must be cognizant of the laws regarding the definitions and the burden of proof in the other state. The incident must also meet the other state's definitions in order to make a Preponderance of Evidence finding. Out-of-state perpetrators may be placed on Missouri's Central Registry.

The Located Out-of-State conclusion is similar to the inappropriate report conclusion in that this conclusion is used when a full CA/N report cannot be completed. If the supervisor is in agreement with the determination of "Located Out-of-State", the report must be forwarded to the Regional Director or their designee for review prior to the approval of the conclusion.

Program Development Specialist Contact:
Kara Wilcox-Bauer
Kara.B.Wilcox-Bauer@dss.mo.gov

Issued: