

Practice Alert



February 6, 2017

Chief Investigator Responsibilities

The purpose of this Practice Alert is to inform staff of a change to the timeframe requirements for Chief Investigator consultation.

[Section 210.145, RSMo.](#) requires each county to identify at least one (1) Chief Investigator who is responsible for supervising staff responding to hotline reports. One of the primary statutory duties of the chief investigator includes verification of direct observation of the child(ren) who is subject of a child abuse and neglect report. The Missouri Code of State Regulations, [13 CSR35-31.020](#) requires all victim and household children to be seen within seventy-two (72) hours of receipt of the report. Because of this, policy has required the chief investigator consultation to be conducted within seventy-two (72) hours regardless of the date and time of the report.

Due to holidays, there are times when there are more than seventy-two (72) hours between business days. Staff may use their discretion on whether to complete the chief investigator consultation during non-business hours in these situations if the investigator has made contact and assured safety of the child(ren). All attempts should be made to complete the chief investigator consult prior to the holiday weekend, or if this is not feasible, completed as soon as possible following the holiday. If the investigator has been unable to make initial contact or has determined the child(ren) to be unsafe, the chief investigator consultation must still be held within seventy-two (72) hours of the report date.

Please refer to [Section 1, Chapter 1.3.1](#) of the Child Welfare Manual for the duties of the Chief Investigator.

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