



Practice Points

Differential Response Assessments

This Practice Point is to give guidance to staff regarding requirements on a Differential Response Assessment.

Differential Response Assessments will require a consultation between staff and a supervisor that the family is in need of services that will continue past the 45 day completion requirement. These consultations shall be prior to the 45 day completion requirement. Conversations should include what services the family is in need of, how Children's Division can support, and resources that can be provided. Supervisor consults should be more frequent in a Differential Response Assessment to continually assess the family throughout the report period. All supervisor consults shall be documented in FACES. The supervisor consult between staff and the supervisor that a Family Assessment is going to be track changed to a Differential Response Assessment shall occur and be documented in FACES by the 45th day.

Staff are expected to thoroughly document the on-going assessment of the family, safety, risk, services provided, and case consultations in FACES. Supervisor discretion should be used to determine the number of home visits that are needed for each Differential Response Assessment. The number should be based on the needs of the family. This may be one home visit per week or weekly contact with the family through in-person, phone, or contact with members of their safety network.

Required tools include:

- Family Risk Assessment Map (CD-220)

Suggested tools could include:

- My Safety House (CD-216)
- Three Houses Tool (CD-217)
- Case Mapping Tool (CD-218)
- Fairy Tool (CD-227)
- Wizard Tool (CD-228)
- Timelines
- Genogram

- Eco-Map
- Culturagram
- Web-based resources
- Community-based resources

Differential Response Assessments shall be completed within 90 days of the original report date. If more intense services are needed within the initial 45 day timeframe or after, the case should be referred to Family Centered Services as soon as the need is identified.

The following should be included in the conclusion summary of every Differential Response Assessment:

- Original Concern;
- Reason the report was identified as a Differential Response Assessment;
- Services and support provided to the family throughout the assessment period;
- Safety concerns;
- Risk reduction;
- Resolution of the report due to working as a Differential Response Assessment;
- Whether a Family Centered Services case should or should not be opened;
- Conclusion for closing is “Agency Responded-Services Provided” when an FCS case is not opened from a DR Assessment

The Differential Response track shall not be used to prevent a report from going overdue.

Program Development Specialist Contact:

Cari Pointer

Cari.A.Pointer@dss.mo.gov

Issued: September 2019