

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, INTERIM DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Assessing Substance Use in Resource Homes

DISCUSSION:

This memo is to explain the impact of Missouri laws regarding medical marijuana in resource homes, and to announce revisions to the Child Welfare Manual regarding assessment of substance use and the potential impacts to caregiver capacity.

Every child deserves a safe and unimpaired caregiver – whether that is a parent, guardian, or resource provider responsible for ensuring the child's health, safety, and well-being. As part of their work, resource development staff must assess a resource parent's use of substances to determine the potential safety risks that could lead to abuse and/or neglect.

A child's resource parent shall not be impaired by any drug or substance, whether legal or illegal (including marijuana and marijuana infused products for medical use; prescription or non-prescription medication; alcohol; or any other substance which may cause impairment) while caring for a child/ren. The new policy explains how Children's Division workers can assess substance use and its possible impacts to child safety.

Each resource parent applicant and resource home must be assessed regarding use of alcohol, marijuana or other drugs that have the potential to render him or her unable to care for children as well as assessment of storage of all drugs, marijuana, medications and substances. Following this memo, the Employee Learning Center will release a training titled Medical Marijuana that contains information on impairment in caregivers and other criteria to help assess safety in the home.

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>NECESSARY ACTION</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review this memorandum with all Children’s Division staff. 2. Review revised Child Welfare Manual chapters as indicated below. 3. All questions should be cleared through normal supervisory channels and directed to: | |
| <p>PDS CONTACT Melissa Selsor 573-522-1191 Melissa.Selsor@dss.mo.gov</p> | <p>MANAGER CONTACT Amy Martin 573-526-8040 Amy.L.Martin@dss.mo.gov</p> |
| <p>CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS Section 1 Chapter 5 Subsection 1</p> | |
| <p>FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS (List or put N/A if not applicable.)</p> | |
| <p>REFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES (List or put N/A if not applicable.)</p> | |
| <p>RELATED STATUTE (List or put N/A if not applicable.)</p> | |