

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: BIRTH MATCH PROGRAM- **Revised 10/21**

DISCUSSION:

This memorandum is to introduce team members to the Birth Match Program that went into effect August 28, 2021. The purpose of Birth Match is to identify infants who are high risk for abuse or neglect based on the parents' previous actions. Birth Match will allow staff to assess the family and determine if services are needed before abuse or neglect occur.

House Bills 429 and 432 established section 210.156 RSMo, which requires the Children's Division to provide the Missouri Registrar of Vital Statistics identifying information for persons who are in at least one of the two categories below:

(1) individuals whose parental rights have **ever** been involuntarily terminated in Missouri AND who are identified in the Central Registry as having a finding by the Division or a court adjudication of child abuse or neglect within the previous ten years;

(2) individuals identified in the Central Registry who have also pled guilty or been found guilty of specific crimes, within the previous ten years, provided the victim was less than eighteen years of age, including: chapter 566 or section 565.020, 565.021, 565.023, 565.024, 567.050, 568.020, 568.065, 573.023, 573.025, 573.035, 573.037, 573.040, 573.200, and 573.205.

Chapter 566 RSMo. includes offenses of rape, sodomy, child molestation, sexual misconduct, sexual abuse, and trafficking.

Section 565.020 RSMo. First degree murder

Section 565.021 RSMo. Second degree murder

Section 565.023 RSMo. Voluntary manslaughter

Section 565.024 RSMo. Involuntary manslaughter

Section 567.050 RSMo. Promoting prostitution in the first degree
Section 568.020 RSMo. Incest
Section 568.065 RSMo. Genital mutilation of a female child
Section 573.023 RSMo. Sexual exploitation of a minor
Section 573.025 RSMo. Promoting child pornography in the first degree
Section 573.035 RSMo. Promoting child pornography in the second degree
Section 573.037 RSMo. Possession of child pornography
Section 573.040 RSMo. Furnishing pornographic materials to minors
Section 573.200 RSMo. Child used in sexual performance
Section 573.205 RSMo. Promoting sexual performance by a child

The Registrar will give the Division the birth record information of any child born to any individual whose identifying information has been provided by the Division. The Division will then verify the match and CANHU will create a Newborn Crisis Assessment designated as "Individual on child's birth certificate meets Birth Match criteria". The Newborn Crisis Assessment will then be sent to the county for assignment.

Birth Match reports will be completed using the Newborn Crisis Assessment Tool per current policy. There will not be a 'Reporter' to contact on this type of Newborn Crisis Assessment. Birth Match reports will be an emergency, requiring the worker to ensure the child's immediate safety, unless it has been determined by the worker and supervisor that the child's immediate safety is not a concern. Special attention should be given to the prior history that led to the verification of Birth Match criteria when making the determination. The consult must be entered into FACES and the Response Priority needs to be changed in FACES within the 3 hour timeframe. Services should be provided as deemed appropriate and documented in FACES. Staff must, per policy, discuss Home Visiting (HV) Services, and complete the CD-261 (Referral for Home Visiting Services), if the family accepts services.

Birth Match reports do not list concerns other than "criteria meets Birth Match program" making it difficult for staff to initiate discussions with the family when making contact. Below is an example of what staff can say when initially meeting with the family:

We received notification of the birth of your baby due to parental prior history with the Children's Division. We are here to assess your family for services and help locate them if needed.

Scenario:

A Birth Match report is received because of the father but he is not in the home. Staff should attempt to notify the father of the report prior to contacting the mother. If contact cannot be made with the father, staff should notify the mother of the report and explain the reason for contact as stated above. Staff cannot disclose the Children's Division's prior history of father to the mother.

A Birth Match report is received because of the mother’s prior history with the Children’s Division. Staff should explain to the mother and father that the Children’s Division received a Newborn Crisis Assessment. Both parents deny any prior involvement with the Children’s Division. Staff cannot disclose which parent has the prior history with both parents present. Staff should attempt to find a time to talk with mom one-on-one to discuss prior history.

A Birth Match report is received because the father was found guilty of one of the qualifying crimes. Staff should explain to the mother and father that the Children’s Division received a Newborn Crisis Assessment. Staff should discuss the father’s criminal charges at that time since the charges are public information.

NECESSARY ACTION	
<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: 	
PDS CONTACT <u>Misty Allen</u> Misty.M.Allen@dss.mo.gov	MANAGER CONTACT <u>Kara Wilcox</u> Kara.B.Wilcox-Bauer@dss.mo.gov
CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS Section 2, Chapter 2.1.3.4.1 Birth Match Program Section 2, Chapter 4.4.1, Birth Match Program	
FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS Newborn Crisis Assessment Tool (NCAT)	
REFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES Missouri Revisor of Statutes - Revised Statutes of Missouri, RSMo Section 210.156	
RELATED STATUTE NA	