

Practice Alert



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Issued by: Prevention and Safety Unit

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Entering SAFE-CARE Referrals and Utilizing the SAFE-CARE Network

The purpose of this Practice Alert is to remind staff of the procedure for entering a SAFE-CARE Referral in FACES and the ability to utilize the SAFE-CARE Network providers.

Pursuant to Section 210.146, RSMo., all Investigations involving children under the age of four must include either an examination of the child or a review of the child's case file and any photographs by a SAFE-CARE provider. Staff should complete the SAFE-CARE Provider Evaluation Referral form (CD-231) within 72 hours and send an encrypted email, along with any relevant medical records and photographs to:

DSS.CD.SafeCareReferral@dss.mo.gov

When entering a SAFE-CARE Referral, staff shall enter the contact in the following manner in FACES:

- On the Participant Characteristics screen in FACES, staff will be required to enter a participant with the role of "Involved Party";
- Type is "Service Provider";
- Title is "SAFE CARE";
- On the Contact screen, staff will be required to enter an actual communication with the SAFE-CARE provider with purpose of "Worker with Medical Personnel".

In addition to the above statutory requirement, staff are encouraged to utilize a SAFE-CARE Provider when investigating alleged abuse or neglect for any child, regardless of their age. Sexual Assault Forensic Examinations (SAFE), Child Physical Abuse Forensic Examinations (CPAFE), and case reviews are available resources for **all** children. During investigations, staff may require the expertise of a medical professional that might not always warrant a physical examination. Staff may contact a SAFE-CARE Provider to assist them with questions regarding abuse and neglect of a child. A list of SAFE –CARE Providers is attached in the below link.

[SAFE-CARE Provider List](#)

Program Specialist Contact:
Cari Pointer
Cari.A.Pointer@dss.mo.gov

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