



EVERYTHING I NEED TO KNOW BUT DID NOT EVER WANT TO KNOW...

### **Information that is useful during an allegation of abuse or neglect**

Foster and adoptive parents are reported for allegation at a higher rate than the general public. Foster parents have a 1 in 6 chance of an allegation. False allegations can rock the stability of even the firmest foundation.

When a call is received by the agency, assessment is done for present danger. If they determine the child is unsafe, the licensing agency refers the report for an independent initial assessment. The foster parent should be notified by the licensing agency of a report and possible removal of child. The foster child can be removed immediately.



Can we have a protective plan in place to prevent moving the child?

### **XII.H Responsibilities of Agencies in Independent Assessments**

- Assure that present danger/threats to a child's safety are assessed and when necessary, a protective plan is implemented.
- Facilitate any court action necessary to provide protection or services to the child and family.
- Provide ongoing services, when needed.

#### **The Assessing CPS agency must:**

- Conduct the initial assessment in accordance with the Child Protective Service Access and Initial Assessment Standards.
- Inform the parent/caregiver of the case finding determination.
- WI Stats s.48.981c 6m., Conduct the appeal process. (See DCFS Numbered Memo Series CFS 98-12 Appeal Process for Substantiated Maltreatment Findings.)

## VII.2 Determining the Timeframe for Response

The timeframe for response is when a CPS caseworker will have initial, face-to-face contact with the alleged child victim and/or parent(s) and will further assess threats to a child's safety.

- Five business days (business days do NOT include holidays or weekends) from receipt of the report. This is the maximum timeframe for face-to-face contact with the child victim and/or parent(s).
- For alleged cases of maltreatment in a foster home, treatment foster home, or family operated group home, after the Requesting Agency has assessed present danger threats to child safety and, when applicable, implemented protective plan, the maximum timeframe for face-to-face contact by the Investigating Agency is within three business days of receipt of the Report.



What is the allegation and who is the alleged perpetrator?

Face-to-face contact is **required** with the following individuals:

- Identified Child(ren).
- Sibling(s) and other children in the home.
- Non-maltreating adults (if any).
- Alleged Maltreater.

### XXV.V.A.

All cases of suspected or threatened sexual abuse received by the county department shall be reported to law enforcement agencies.

**\*\*Remember, you know your child. If there are cognitive impairments, you may want to have yourself or someone else present.\*\***

The Assessment Worker may ask to interview your child(ren).



What is the accusation? Who is the alleged perpetrator(s)? Who will interview my child and who will be present?



This is important in cases where sexual abuse is alleged.

#### **XII.E**

If the alleged maltreater is a minor, the parent(s), guardian(s), or adult(s) protecting the minor interest and minor must be advised of the allegation at the time of the initial contact.

When CPS AND Law Enforcement conduct a joint interview or contact the allege maltreater, the requirement for CPS to notify the alleged maltreater of the allegations made against him or her still applies.

#### **XII.G. Foster Homes and Treatment Foster Home or Treatment Foster Homes Licensed by Another County, the BMCW, a Tribal Agency or a Private Agency.**

- If there are no children placed in the home an independent assessment is not necessary.
- An agency has 60 days to complete the initial assessment and make the maltreatment/maltreater determination. The Agency conducting the independent assessment is responsible for informing foster parents or the maltreatment/maltreater determination. The Agency making the maltreatment/maltreater determination conducts the appeal process.



## SUGGESTIONS

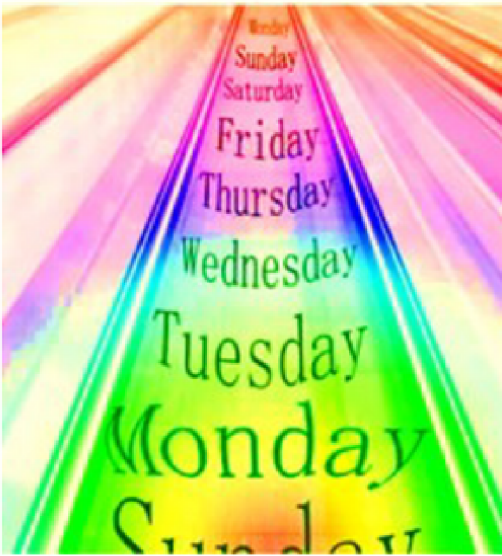
- Keep a daily log and record any unusual events, behaviors, comments, reactions before or after interaction with family members.
  - School issues, medical, dental, or therapy appointments.
  - All discussions with other professionals about the child's progress and needs (including social workers, attorneys, mental health professionals, etc.)
  - Do NOT expect the social worker to document the issues even if it was reported to her.
- Ask your Social Worker for a Contact Person from the agency.
- Do NOT isolate yourself.
- Reach out for support and help to refocus. Call FASPP!
- Do NOT make any major decisions while under investigation.
- Ask for a break/hold on your Foster Care License.
- Be kind to yourself and family. Remember, people who say it cannot be done should not interrupt those who are doing it.
- Exercise
- Eat healthy.
- Go outside and get fresh air.
- Know your file-read it. They can go back into your file for all the years you were licensed and find new "evidence".



## NEEDS

- WE NEED 4 hugs a day for survival.
- WE NEED 8 hugs a day for maintenance.
- WE NEED 12 hugs a day for growth

**This information is classified as "in the box" from standards of investigation. This means that the worker SHALL do as it states, not maybe, not I get to choose, rather SHALL.**



# Timeline For Assessment

**Call in received by the agency.** An assessment is done for possible present or impending danger threats to the children's safety at the time of the call. If it is determined that there may be concerns, someone is sent to observe the child. It is possible that the agency that licensed the foster home may make the first contact to determine if the children are safe. The agency must then refer the report to another agency to make the screening and response time decision and conduct an initial assessment if it is screened in.

**Within 24 hour:** The agency receiving the report must refer the report to another county to make the screening and response time decision, notify any other agency that has a child placed in the home of the CPS report, and notify the licensing agency of a report. A screening decision is made by an agency other than the agency that licensed or has placement of children. The screening decision is made by assessing if the reported allegation is true, does it possibly rise to the level of abuse or neglect, or threat of abuse or neglect.

If the report is screened in, a response time is determined by the same agency making the screening decision. A report can be assigned same day, 24-48 hours, or within 3 days for foster homes.

**Within 3 days:** The first face-to-face contact is made by the independent assessment worker. This would begin the initial assessment.

**Within 40 days:** If CHIPS petition is being filed, the court process must be initiated within 40 days from the receipt of the report. **Within 60 days:** An agency has 60 days to complete the initial assessment and make the maltreatment/maltreater determination. The agency conducting the independent assessment is responsible for informing foster parents of the maltreatment/maltreater determination. The agency making the maltreatment/maltreater determination conducts the appeal process.

**After the Initial Assessment:** The agency in the county that licensed the foster home will provide on-going services when needed.