

Division of Children and Family Services	
Protection and Safety Procedure Update #22-2012	
Regarding:	Collaborating with Child Advocacy Centers (CAC)
Rescinds:	#17-2011
Date Effective:	October 30, 2012
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Philosophy:

The Division of Children and Family Services believes that collaborating with the Child Advocacy Centers provides opportunity to deliver a holistic, coordinated and trauma-informed response to children and families.

Procedure:

In order to assist the assessment worker in knowing which cases require involvement by a Child Advocacy Center, N-FOCUS will automatically identify any intake alleging sexual abuse. For situations not alleging sexual abuse, the CFS Intake Specialist receiving the abuse or neglect report will identify Child Advocacy Center involvement by checking a box as they document the Intake on N-FOCUS. The following situations will be identified as an Intake requiring Child Advocacy Center involvement:

- Serious injury or medical condition of a child possibly caused by physical abuse or neglect;
- A child who has witnessed a violent crime;
- A child who has been removed from a drug lab;
- A child who has been recovered from a kidnapping;
- A child who has witnessed the death of a sibling or house-mate; and
- A child who has witnessed a serious injury to a sibling or house-mate.

A serious injury or medical condition is defined as one requiring medical treatment.

Children who have received medical care at a local hospital or a medical facility do not require a referral to a Child Advocacy Center. If the child was admitted to or seen at a hospital or other medical facility, the CFS Specialist will obtain medical records and arrange for them to be reviewed by the cooperating pediatrician from the appropriate Child Advocacy Center. Review of medical records by a medical professional who is an expert in child abuse and neglect will assure that all child abuse or neglect related injuries are identified.

Medical exams at a Child Advocacy Center are recommended if there is an allegation of:

- Sexual abuse;

- Serious physical abuse or neglect (medical neglect, failure to thrive, etc.); or
- Drug exposure to children.

Child Advocacy Center consultation will be done in all situations involving child death where abuse or neglect may have been the cause or a contributing factor to the child's death.

- A Child Advocacy Center will be involved in every investigation / assessment involving any child 18 years or younger who may be a victim of or witness to:
 - Sexual abuse;
 - Serious physical abuse or neglect;
 - Domestic violence involving injury to the child or adult victim;
 - Kidnapping;
 - Homicide;
 - Drug lab.

The Child Advocacy Centers will continue to review cases of:

- Sexual abuse;
- Serious physical abuse or neglect;
- Drug endangered children;
- Serious or ongoing domestic violence;
- Cases referred by a member of the team when a system response has been identified;
- Cases determined by DHHS to be "high" or "very high" risk for further maltreatment.

The Treatment Team will participate in case staffing's and the coordination, development, implementation, and monitoring of treatment or safety plans, particularly in those cases in which ongoing services are to be provided by DHHS or a contracted agency, but the juvenile court is not involved.

References:

Neb. Rev. Stat. 28-728 and 28-729 amended based on LB993 which passed in the 2012 Legislative session.