

CHANGE NOTICE FOR MANUAL

DATE: July 17, 2017

MANUAL: CHILD WELFARE SERVICES MANUAL – SECTION 1201 – Child Placement Services; II – Out of Home Family Services Agreement, V – Out of Home Placement Services
CHAPTER VIII: Protective Services; 1407 – Structured Intake, 1408 – Investigations and Family Assessments, 1412 – CPS In-Home Services
1439 – Substance Affected Infants ***NEW***

CHANGE NO: 06-2017

TO: COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

ATTENTION: CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS, MANAGERS, SUPERVISORS, & CHILD WELFARE SOCIAL WORKERS

RE: NORTH CAROLINA'S RESPONSE TO LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS TO THE CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT ACT: SUBSTANCE AFFECTED INFANT POLICY AND PLAN OF SAFE CARE

EFFECTIVE: July 31, 2017

I. BACKGROUND

Public Law 114-198, also known as the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (CARA), was a response to the nation's prescription drug and opioid epidemic and addresses various aspects of substance use disorders. Section 503 of CARA (Infant Plan of Safe Care) aims to help states address the effects of substance abuse disorders on infants and families by amending provisions of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) that are pertinent to infants with prenatal substance exposure. North Carolina has made the following policy changes in response to this legislation.

II. SPECIFIC CHANGES

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS), along with its health care and substance use disorder treatment partners, have developed definitions for infants "born and identified as being affected by substance abuse or withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug exposure, or a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder" under the guidance provided by the federal Administration for Children and Families (ACF) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). In North Carolina, health care providers involved in the delivery and care of such infants must notify the county child welfare agency upon identification of the infant as "substance affected" per the NC DHHS definitions.

When a county child welfare agency receives such a notification through CPS intake, it will develop a Plan of Safe Care and refer the infant and family to the Care Coordination for Children (CC4C) program. Families of substance affected infants will have the option of utilizing CC4C's services to address the identified needs. CC4C will work with the family on a voluntary basis with a goal of improving the infant's health outcomes. In order to comply with confidentiality laws and to ensure that a Plan of Safe Care can be created for every infant, it is important that the CC4C referral be made during the screening of the report and prior to making a determination to screen in or screen out the report.

Not every substance affected infant's circumstance is appropriate for CPS Assessment and county child welfare agencies must use the Structured Intake policy to make this determination. If a family requires a CPS Assessment, the child welfare worker will support the family in implementing the

Plan of Safe Care while also assessing risk and ensuring the infant's safety. The plan will become a part of the family's service agreements, should the family's circumstances require CPS In-Home Services or Child Placement Services. Child welfare policy has been updated to reflect specific requirements and considerations to be made when working with this population of infants and their families.

Additionally, county child welfare agencies must collect and report specific data to the North Carolina Division of Social Services (DSS) on a monthly basis. A NC DHHS interagency collaborative will meet quarterly to review the data collected by DSS and CC4C, determine gaps and needs, develop a plan of intervention and provide technical assistance at the local level.

III. INSTRUCTIONS

The new Substance Affected Infant policy effects the following policy manuals: 1201 – Child Placement Services; II – Out of Home Family Services Agreement, V – Out of Home Placement Services, CHAPTER VIII: Protective Services; 1407 – Structured Intake, 1408 – Investigations and Family Assessments, 1412 – CPS In-Home Services; 1439 – Substance Affected Infants *****NEW*****

OBSOLETE	USE
<p>NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES</p> <p>CHILD WELFARE SERVICES MANUAL</p> <p>1201 – Child Placement Services; II – Out of Home Family Services Agreement</p> <p>1201 – Child Placement Services; V – Out of Home Placement Services</p> <p>CHAPTER VIII: Protective Services; 1407 – Structured Intake</p> <p>CHAPTER VIII: Protective Services; 1408 – Investigations and Family Assessments</p> <p>CHAPTER VIII: Protective Services; 1412 – CPS In-Home Services</p>	<p>NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES</p> <p>CHILD WELFARE SERVICES MANUAL</p> <p>1201 – Child Placement Services; II – Out of Home Family Services Agreement</p> <p>1201 – Child Placement Services; V – Out of Home Placement Services</p> <p>CHAPTER VIII: Protective Services; 1407 – Structured Intake</p> <p>CHAPTER VIII: Protective Services; 1408 – Investigations and Family Assessments</p> <p>CHAPTER VIII: Protective Services; 1412 – CPS In-Home Services</p> <p>CHAPTER VIII: Protective Services; 1439 – Substance Affected Infants ***NEW***</p>

Sincerely,

Wayne E. Black
 Director of Social Services and
 County Operations