

CHANGE NOTICE FOR MANUAL

DATE: February 28, 2008

MANUAL: Family Services Manual, Volume 1: Children's Services,
Chapter VIII: Section 1408

CHANGE NO: 03-2008

TO: County Directors of Social Services

ATTENTION: CPS Program Managers and Supervisors
CPS Social Workers

RE: Clarifications and updates to current policy

EFFECTIVE: April 1, 2008

Chapter VIII, Section 1408 Investigative and Family Assessments, has been updated with the following changes.

Language from the revision of Chapter V, Jurisdiction in Child Welfare, has been incorporated throughout the section. Clarification regarding the safe surrender policy located in section 1411 has been incorporated throughout the section. The model format for case decision letter to the reporter in family and investigative assessments has been revised and combined into one new letter.

The one change to policy is located in section II, H., (3) and is regarding the CAPTA requirement to refer children to Early Intervention Services. This is in response to clarification from the federal government. It is no longer required that every child under the age of three who has been the subject of a substantiated abuse, neglect or dependency case be referred to Early Intervention. It is now permissible for county Departments of Social Services to screen this population and only refer those who have an identified need.

To screen a child for referral to Early Intervention, counties are directed to use the current Strength and Needs Assessment (DSS-5229), item S6. Child Characteristics. Any identification of need on this item will require that the referral to the CDSA be made. Additional instructions on the DSS-5229 for completing item S6. have been included. It is important to remember that at any time there is a concern regarding the developmental state of a child, that a referral be made. Once it has been determined that a referral to Early Intervention has been made, it is not necessary to make subsequent referrals when new reports are received.

Any questions may be addressed to the Family Support and Child Welfare Services Section staff at (919) 733-4622.

Instructions	
Remove	Insert
Section 1408	Section 1408

Sincerely,



Charisse Johnson, Chief
Family Support and Child Welfare Services

Attachment
Section 1408

cc: Sherry S. Bradsher
JoAnn Lamm
Sarah Barham
Family Support and Child Welfare Team Leaders
Children's Program Representatives
Work First Program Representatives
Local Business Liaisons