

## CHANGE NOTICE FOR MANUAL

**DATE:** November 22, 2006

**MANUAL:** Family Services Services Manual, Volume 1: Children's Services, Chapter VIII: Child Protective Services, Section 1409, Domestic Violence

**CHANGE NO:** 03-2006

**TO:** County Directors of Social Services

**ATTENTION:** CPS Supervisors and CPS Social Workers

**RE:** Revised Manual and Forms

**EFFECTIVE:** Immediately

In early 2004, the Division of Social Services collaborated with the NCACDSS Workgroup to develop the Domestic Violence Policy. The policy was released in September 2004. After hearing from training participants in the "Child Welfare Domestic Violence Policy Training," policy guidance on conducting Child and Family Team meetings with families experiencing domestic violence has been revised. These policy revisions have been approved by the NCACDSS.

Revised policy provides updated guidance for using Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings in CPS cases involving domestic violence. In some cases, the non-offending parent/adult victim may want the perpetrator of domestic violence to participate in the Child and Family Team meeting together. The non-offending parent/adult victim may see this as a safer opportunity to negotiate agreements in regards to the care of the children as well as a way to bring community pressure on the perpetrator to change their behaviors and stop the violence. This revised policy allows for the joint CFT meetings in certain situations.

The revised policy provides several discussion questions to help guide the decision as to whether to go forward with a joint Child and Family Team meeting. Also, if the decision by the County DSS and/or facilitator is to go forward with a joint Child and Family Team meeting, the revised policy provides some examples of safety preparations that may be needed to ensure the safety of the meeting participants before, during and after the meeting.

The Kinship Care Initial Assessment ([DSS-5203](#)) and Instructions ([DSS-5204](#)) have been revised to include a question about a caregiver's history of domestic violence.

The Family Assessment of Strengths and Needs ([DSS-5229](#)), S5. Family Relationships, has clarified the definition of c. "domestic discord" and d. "serious domestic discord/domestic violence" to be more consistent with the current definition of domestic violence in policy.

The enhanced practice tool, Personalized Domestic Violence Safety Plan ([DSS-5233](#)), was reformatted to make it smaller. It was reduced down to a 2 page (one page front/back) document instead of a 4 page document. There were no other significant changes to the content of the form.

Revised Spanish versions of the Kinship Care Initial Assessment and the Family Assessment of Strengths and Needs should be updated on the web in the near future.

Should you have any questions regarding the policy please contact your Children's Program Representative or the Work First/CPS Policy Team at (919) 733-4622.

Instructions:

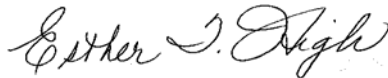
**Remove**

Chapter VIII, Section 1409  
Domestic Violence dated 9/7/04

**Insert**

Chapter VIII, Section 1409  
Domestic Violence dated 11/8/06

Sincerely,



Esther T. High, Acting Chief  
Family Support and Child Welfare Section

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Attachments:

[CS\\_CN 3-2006](#)

[CS1409](#)

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