

1210 INTERVENTIONS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Chapter: **Child Protective Field Services**

Section: **CPS Family Assessments**



New Hampshire Division for Children, Youth and Families Policy Manual

Policy Directive: **08-03**

Approved:

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Maggie Bishop, DCYF Director

Related Statute(s): [RSA 169-C](#)

Related Admin Rule(s):

Related Federal Regulation(s): [IDEA Part C \(34 CFR Section 303\)](#)

Related Form(s):

Bridges' Screen(s) and Attachment(s):

Purpose

To describe the process and requirements of assessing referrals of child abuse and neglect. The primary goal of the assessment process is to ensure the safety of the child(ren).

Policy

- I. When recommendations for services have been made, they must be documented in the Bridges contact log and discussed with the family and involved community providers. In considering the causes of abusive and neglectful behavior on the part of the parents or caregivers, and the various forms of family dysfunction, the CPSW and Supervisor must explore the underlying dynamics of the harmful behavior. Any intervention offered must address these identified issues by providing targeted services and interventions, such as the following:
 - A. When the causes of child maltreatment or neglect are Mental Illness, Mental Retardation, or Physical Handicap or Illness, assistance for the family from a behavioral health or medical service provider must be sought.
 - B. When the causes of child maltreatment or neglect are Inadequate Parenting or Stress, intervention is guidance provided by the CPSW and a referral may be made to a child health support agency.
 - C. When the causes of child maltreatment or neglect are Emotional Illness, Marital Conflict, Family Conflict, or Alcohol/Drug Abuse, the decision to refer for treatment or to provide guidance by the CPSW is based on the severity of the condition:
 1. If the condition is severe and directly impacting the child's safety, a referral must be made to a behavioral health service provider;
 2. If the condition is moderate or mild, and in the Supervisor's judgment the CPSW has the skills to intervene, the worker may provide the direct services.
- II. When [Domestic Violence](#) is occurring or is the cause of the child maltreatment, the CPSW must refer the victim to the Domestic Violence Specialist located within the district office. When documenting any information specific to the children's or alleged victim of domestic violence safety, relative to identified domestic violence, the CPSW must not include locations of potential "safe places" that the child and non-offending parent might use in a crisis situation.
- III. When a child under age 3 is involved in a founded assessment, the child and his or her parent or guardian must be referred to Family-Centered Early Supports and Services for a developmental

screening, funded by Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (Section 106(b)(2)(A)(xxi).

- IV. When the child's safety cannot be secured, the child must be placed outside the home. [Placement](#) may be with a relative, foster parent, or residential care provider.