

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

April 23, 1997



ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 97-26

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
 ALL COUNTY CHILD WELFARE SERVICES
 PROGRAM MANAGERS
 ALL COUNTY CAL LEARN COORDINATORS
 ALL COUNTY AFDC PROGRAM SPECIALISTS

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- State Law Change
 Federal Law or Regulation Change
 Court Order
 Clarification Requested by
 One or More Counties
 Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: MINOR PARENT SERVICES (TEEN PREGNANCY DISINCENTIVE)

REFERENCE: ACL 97-18, ACL 97-17, ACIN I-57-96, ACL 96-65, ASSEMBLY BILL (AB) 908,
 CHAPTER 307, STATUTES OF 1995

The purpose of this letter is to transmit emergency regulations and further instructions necessary to implement the Child Welfare Services (CWS) provisions of AB 908 (Chapter 307, Statutes of 1995). These regulations will become effective on May 1, 1997, except Sections 31-530.2 through .34, which will become effective on June 1, 1997. AB 908 also contains provisions specific to Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). The Welfare Programs Division has issued separate All County Letters (ACL #97-17 and ACL #96-65) with AFDC implementation instructions.

IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS***(1) Referral Based on Risk***

Effective May 1, 1997, all never-married pregnant and parenting minor applicants for AFDC will be required to complete the *Supplemental Statement of Facts - Minor Parent* (CA 25 form) at the time of application. Pregnant and parenting minors already receiving AFDC who are living on their own must complete the *Supplemental Statement of Facts - Minor Parent* as soon as administratively feasible, but no later than the next redetermination beginning in July 1997. The *Supplemental Statement of Facts - Minor Parent* has been developed for County Welfare Departments (CWDs) to use to:

- Document the minor parent's current living arrangement;
- Refer the minor parent to CWS when he/she alleges abuse or risk of abuse;

- Refer the minor parent to CWS for Minor Parent Services (MPS) if the minor parent meets an exemption and lives apart from his/her parent(s), legal guardian or other adult relative.

When a minor parent alleges a health or safety factor prevents his/her living with the senior parent(s), legal guardian, or other adult relative, the eligibility worker will send the *Supplemental Statement of Facts - Minor Parent* to CWS. A CWS social worker must conduct an in-person investigation of the minor parent, including his/her children, and the senior parent(s), legal guardian, or other adult relative. The CWS social worker is responsible for completing the in-person investigation and returning the *Supplemental Statement of Facts - Minor Parent* to the eligibility worker indicating the results of the investigation within 20 calendar days from receipt of the referral. Please note: when the *Supplemental Statement of Facts - Minor Parent* indicates an immediate need, CWS will make every effort to complete the in-person investigation immediately.

When the CWS social worker determines that the allegation of abuse/neglect is not substantiated, the social worker notifies the AFDC eligibility worker of the results of the investigation by completing and returning the *Supplemental Statement of Facts - Minor Parent* to the eligibility worker. The minor parent's application for AFDC based on this exemption will be denied, unless he/she moves into an acceptable adult supervised living arrangement or meets other exemption criteria.

When the CWS social worker determines that the allegation is substantiated and there is risk of abuse or neglect if the minor parent and his/her child(ren) were to return home, the CWS social worker must determine if the senior parent's or legal guardian's home would be safe with the provision of other CWS services or if the minor parent or his/her child(ren) needs other CWS services (i.e., foster care placement). The social worker notifies the AFDC eligibility worker of the results of the investigation by completing and returning the *Supplemental Statement of Facts - Minor Parent* to the eligibility worker. The minor's application for AFDC based on this exemption may be granted, as otherwise eligible.

Counties should note that whenever a minor parent referral is received from AFDC which indicates that the minor parent and/or child(ren) are at imminent risk of abuse or neglect, intake, assessment and case planning activities should occur as required by MPP Sections 31-100 through 31-235. In situations where minor parents allege abuse or neglect by senior parents in other counties or states, investigations may require the assistance of CWS agencies or law enforcement agencies in other counties or states.

(2) Referral Based on Meeting An AFDC Exemption

A determination by AFDC that a minor parent has met an aid exemption and is not required to live in an adult-supervised supportive living arrangement to receive AFDC should not be considered a judgment about the safety of the minor parent or his/her child(ren). The circumstances set forth in WIC 11254(b)(1), (2) and (4) each constitute risk factors to the minor parent as well as the minor parent's child, which must be considered in determining whether an in-person investigation based on risk of abuse is required.

It is the California Department of Social Services' policy that CWS social workers have an appropriate role and shall investigate referrals of minor parents living without adult support and supervision. The regulations, in Section 31-530.221, require an in-person assessment by a CWS social worker of every minor parent referred pursuant to 11254(b) to determine the ability of the minor parent to live independently. As part of this assessment the CWS social worker must consider the circumstances leading to the minor parent's referral and must determine if risk exists to the minor parent and/or his/her child(ren) due to lack of parental support or supervision, and what services may be necessary to mitigate that risk.

When CWS receives a referral from AFDC indicating that a minor parent has met an aid exemption, a CWS social worker must assess the safety of the minor parent and his/her child(ren), the potential for or existence of any condition(s) which places the minor parent or his/her child(ren) at risk and in need of services, and the minor parent's ability to live independently and meet the health and safety needs of his/her child. Attached are guidelines which counties may choose to use in determining a minor parent's ability to live independently.

The CWS social worker must document the factors contributing to his/her determination of the minor parent's ability to live independently and/or the need for services. Minor parents under the age of seventeen years old are at extremely high risk for living independently and the safety plan should fully document the basis for a decision to continue an unsupervised living arrangement. If it is determined that the minor parent is unable to live independently, investigation, assessment and plan requirements specified in MPP Sections 31-125 through 31-235 shall be met. If it is determined that the minor parent is able to live independently, the social worker shall work with the minor parent to develop a safety plan and shall offer and arrange for the minor parent to receive Minor Parent Services.

(3) Provision of Minor Parent Services

Though some counties may begin to receive referrals for MPS prior to June 1, the thirty (30) day clock for responding to those referrals will begin on June 1, 1997. Counties may choose to provide services directly, enter into new contracts for the provision of services, or augment existing contracts with Cal-Learn, Independent Living Program, or Family Preservation providers. If the county chooses to contract for services, formal advertising will not be required pursuant to MPP section 23-650.12 (attached) governing procurement by negotiation. The

contract for MPS must, at a minimum, specify the process by which minor parents will be referred for MPS, how the services will be provided to minor parent families, the process for ensuring that visits and referrals will occur, the process for ongoing assessments, and the process for reporting to CWS on the progress of families served.

TRAINING ON ASSESSING MINOR PARENTS

The following regional training sessions have been scheduled to provide county staff with information on assessing the ability of minor parents to live independently:

April 22	San Diego	April 29	Sacramento
April 23	Los Angeles	April 30	Redding

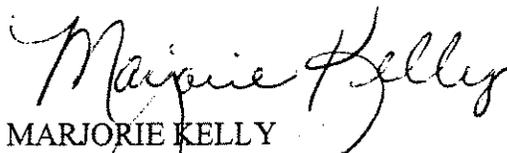
Counties should have already received an informational letter and registration materials.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

Funding for county staff to perform assessments under WIC 11254(b)(3) will be included in counties' CWS allocation. Funds for MPS will be provided in a separate allocation. Costs for MPS will be reimbursed at \$200 a month per minor parent family case, up to a maximum of \$2,400 per year per minor parent family case. For claiming contracted services costs for MPS, a Program Identifier Number (PIN) will be established by Fiscal Policy Bureau to capture the costs. The costs will be reported on the DFA 325.1B, Direct Cost Input Schedule, and rolled to DFA 327.3A, Social Services Cost Summary page, through DFA 5A, the Funding page. Further information and claiming instructions, including instructions for counties who will be providing MPS directly, will be forwarded in a separate letter from the Fiscal Policy Bureau.

Counties are to follow the implementation instructions specified in ACL 97-18 except when those instructions are overridden by this letter. If you have any questions regarding this letter or need additional information, please contact Ms. Deborah Wender, Child Welfare Services Bureau at (916) 445-5829. Please call Ms. Judy Miller, AFDC Policy Implementation Bureau, at (916) 657-2257 for AFDC related questions.

Sincerely,



MARJORIE KELLY
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division

Attachments

Amend Section 31-002 to read:

31- 002 DEFINITIONS (Continued)

31-002

(m) (1) (Continued)

(3) "Minor parent" means anyone under the age of 18 years who is either pregnant or the custodial parent of a child and who has never been married.

(4) "Minor Parent Services (MPS)" means home-based services provided to the minor parent and her/his child(ren), designed to support families and provide education to minor parents about issues such as infant health and development, nutrition, parenting skills, and life skills. Minor parent services shall include, but are not limited to, appropriate periodic in-home visits; on-going assessment of the infant and minor parent's circumstances and conditions; and referrals to appropriate community services to meet the specific safety needs of the minor parent and her/his child(ren). (Continued)

(s) (1) "Safety plan" means a plan for providing services to promote the health and safety of the children in a family. The safety plan shall specify the number and frequency of in-home visits required.

(2) "Senior parent" means the adult parent of a minor parent.

(13) "Seriously emotionally disturbed" (Continued)

(24) "Service funded activity" (Continued)

(35) "Small family home" (Continued)

(46) "Social services" or "services" (Continued)

(57) "State agency" (Continued)

(68) "Substance abuse testing" (Continued)

Authority Cited: Sections 10553 and 10554, Welfare and Institutions Code.

Reference: Sections 300, 300(c), 300(e), 306(b), 319 (as amended by Senate Bill 2232, Chapter 1530, Statutes of 1990), 361, 11400(a), 16501(a)(3), 16501.1(f)(7), and 16503, 16504, 16506, and 16506(c), Welfare and Institutions Code; Section 11165 et seq., Penal Code; Section 265, Civil Code; 42 USC Section 675; Section 1502, Health and Safety Code; 45 CFR 233.120.

Amend Section 31-101 to read:

31-101 GENERAL

31-101

.1 The county shall respond to all referrals for service which allege that a child is endangered by abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

.11 The county shall respond to referrals from county AFDC eligibility staff pursuant to Section 89-201.24 in accordance with the provisions of Section 31-530.
(Continued)

Authority Cited: Section 10553 and 10554, Welfare and Institutions Code.

Reference: Sections 11254, 16208, 16501(f), 16501.1, ~~and~~ 16504, and 16504(d), Welfare and Institutions Code.

Adopt Section 31-530 to read:

31-530 MINOR PARENT SERVICES (MPS)

31-530

.1 Referral of Minor Parent Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 11254(b)(3).

HANDBOOK BEGINS HERE

- .11 Referral of a Minor Parent specified in Welfare and Institutions Code Section 11254(b)(3) occurs when a minor parent applies for AFDC and alleges that their physical or emotional health or safety, or that of their child(ren) would be jeopardized if they lived in the same residence with their parent, legal guardian or other adult relative. AFDC county eligibility staff will not make a final determination about granting aid, except in cases where Immediate Need is requested, until a CWS social worker informs AFDC county eligibility staff whether the minor parent and his/her child(ren) can safely reside in the senior parent's, legal guardian's or other adult relative's home.

HANDBOOK ENDS HERE

- .12 Within 20 calendar days of receiving a referral pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 11254(b)(3), the CWS social worker shall complete an in-person investigation of the allegation to determine whether the physical or emotional health or safety of the minor parent or child(ren) would be jeopardized if they lived in the same residence with the minor parent's own parent, legal guardian or other adult relative.
- .13 If the referral is unfounded, the CWS social worker shall document the factors contributing to this determination, and shall complete and return the referral form to the county AFDC office.
- .14 If the referral is not unfounded, the CWS social worker shall document the factors contributing to this determination and shall complete and return the referral form to the county AFDC office and follow the procedures set forth in Section 31-530.2.
- .2 Referral of Minor Parent Determined to Meet Exemption Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 11254(b). (Section 31-530.2 et seq. is to be implemented on June 1, 1997).

HANDBOOK BEGINS HERE

- .21 Minor parent exemptions specified in Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 11254(b)(1) through (4) are:
- .211 Minor parent has no parent or legal guardian who is living or whose whereabouts are known.
 - .212 Minor parent has no parent or legal guardian who will allow the minor parent to live in his/her home.
 - .213 The CWS social worker has determined that the physical or emotional health or safety of the minor or child(ren) would be jeopardized if the minor and child(ren) lived in the same residence with the minor's own parent, legal guardian or other adult relative.
 - .214 Minor parent has lived apart from his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) for a period of at least one year before either the birth of any such child or the minor parent having made application for aid.

HANDBOOK ENDS HERE

- .22 Within 30 calendar days of receiving a referral on a minor parent meeting an exemption pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 11254(b), the CWS social worker shall:
- .221 Complete an in-person assessment of the minor parent and his/her child(ren) to determine whether the minor parent and his/her child(ren) are capable of living independently.
- .23 Based on the findings of the in-person assessment, the CWS social worker shall either:
- .231 Document the factors contributing to a determination that a minor parent is unable to live on his/her own.
 - (a) If the minor parent is unable to live on his/her own, the CWS social worker shall complete the investigation, assessment and case planning process described in Sections 31-125 through 31-325.
- or
- .232 Document the factors contributing to a determination that a minor parent is able to live on his/her own and develop a safety plan.

.24 Except as provided in Section 31-530.3, counties must provide MPS, pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 16506(d), to minor parents and their children referred and who meet an exemption pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 11254(b), when a CWS social worker has determined the minor parent is able to live independently. Counties may contract with another county agency or non-county service provider to provide MPS.

.241 When a county chooses to contract for MPS, the contract must, at a minimum, specify the following:

- (a) How the services are to be provided;
- (b) The process by which minor parents will be referred for MPS;
- (c) The process for reporting to the county on the progress of families served;
- (d) The process for on-going assessments; and
- (e) The process for ensuring that visits and referrals will occur.

.3 MPS shall be terminated when:

.31 The minor parent turns 18 years old; or

.32 The minor refuses MPS.

Authority Cited: Sections 10553 and 10554, Welfare and Institutions Code.

Reference: Sections 11254, 16504, 16504(b), 16506, and 16506(d), Welfare and Institutions Code.

TEEN PREGNANCY DISINCENTIVE

(AB 908)

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE

- 1. Legal Basis for Teen Pregnancy Disincentive Intervention**
- 2. Initial Workload Estimates and Timeline**
- 3. Process Map**
- 4. Assessment Guidelines**
 - Safety Assessment**
 - Independent Living**
- 5. Safety Plan**
- 6. Out-of-County and Out-of-State Senior Parents**
- 7. Procurement Negotiation (MPP 23-650)**

LEGAL AUTHORITY FOR CPS INVESTIGATION OF MINOR PARENTS

The CDSS legal opinion states that WIC 11254(b)(3) mandates an in-person response investigation. There is no mandate to respond imposed by (1), (2) or (4) of this section. However, there is nothing to preclude investigation of referrals made under (1), (2) or (4). The decision to conduct an investigation must be based on the circumstances and risk factors present in each situation. An evaluation of risk includes collateral contacts, a review of previous referrals and other relevant information. The circumstances described in 11254(b)(1), (2) and (4) clearly constitute risk factors for the minor parent and/or the minor parent's child(ren) which should be considered in determining the need for an in-person response.

According to WIC 300.2, social workers may investigate and provide appropriate services in order to maximize the safety and protection for children relating to any referrals, including those described in WIC section 11254(b)(1). Additionally, a provision of 300 WIC indicates "Nothing in this section is intended to limit the offering of voluntary services to those families in need of assistance but who do not come within the description of this section".

WIC SECTION 300.2

PURPOSE OF CHAPTER

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the purpose of the provisions of this chapter relating to dependent children is to provide maximum safety and protection for children who are currently being physically, sexually, or emotionally abused, being neglected, or being exploited, and to ensure the safety, protection, and physical and emotional well-being of children who are at risk of that harm. This safety, protection, and physical and emotional well-being may include provision of a full array of social and health services to help the child and family and prevent reabuse of children. The focus shall be on the preservation of the family as well as the safety, protection, and physical and emotional well-being of the child. The provision of a home environment free from the negative effects of substance abuse is a necessary condition for the safety, protection and physical and emotional well-being of the child. Successful participation in a treatment program for substance abuse may be considered in evaluating the home environment.

TEEN PREGNANCY DISINCENTIVE (AB 908)

INITIAL WORKLOAD ESTIMATES AND TIME LINES

Initial workload estimates and time lines related to implementation of the Teen Pregnancy Disincentive have been developed by the CDSS County Cost Analysis Bureau and Estimates Branch. It is estimated that for Fiscal Year 1997-98, approximately 9,749 minor applicants will be approved for AFDC in California. Approximately 55 percent of these minors will not be living with a parent or guardian. Approximately 29 percent of these applicants will be 17 years old and likely receive services under AB 908 criterion. It is anticipated that only a small proportion of minor parents under the age of 17 would be capable of living independently and receiving Minor Parent Services. Those minor parents exempted from the AFDC living at home rule will go through the traditional CWS intake and assessment process. Based on the assessment, the CWS social worker will determine whether there is another adult relative with whom the minor parent can live or if out-of-home placement services are necessary.

Attached is an initial workload time line with estimates for the first two months of implementation.

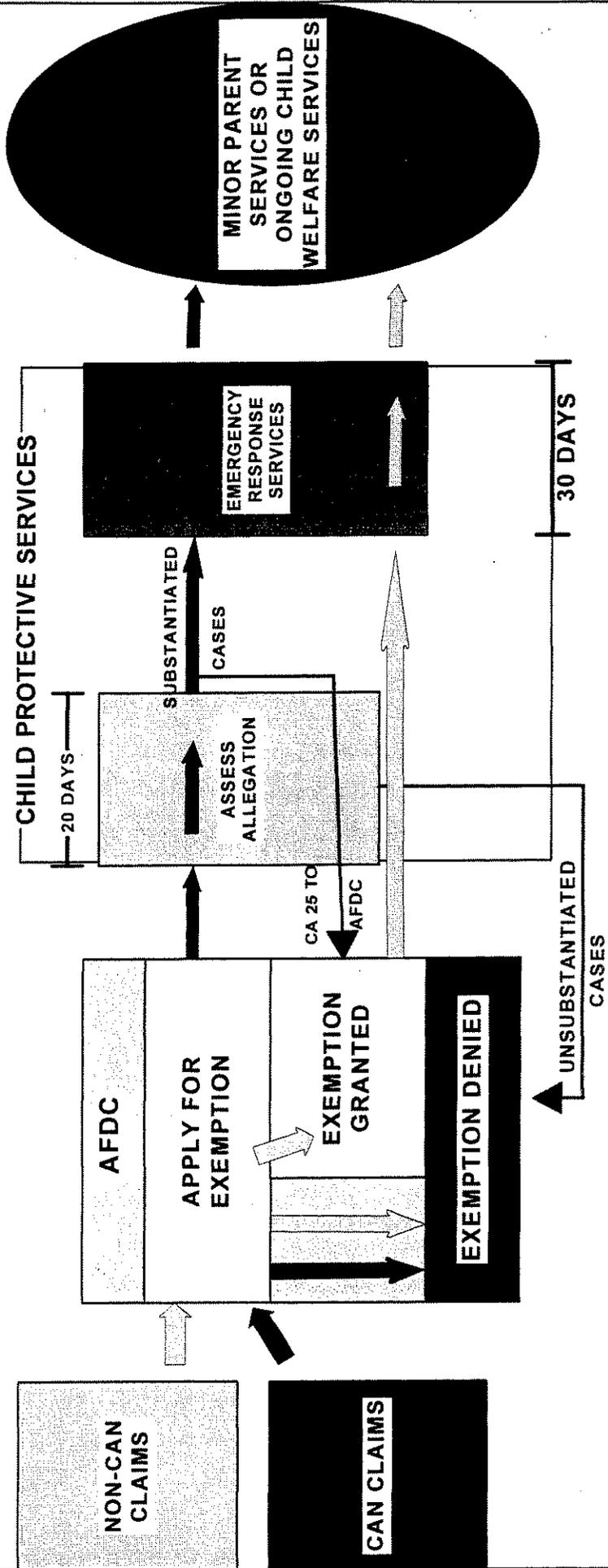
**AB 908 INITIAL WORKLOAD ESTIMATES
MAY 1997 - JUNE 1997**

FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997/98:

	5/1/1997 - AB 908 APPLICATIONS BEGIN	5-May-97	12-May-97	19-May-97	26-May-97	6/1/1997 - MINOR PARENT SERVICES BEGIN	2-Jun-97	9-Jun-97	16-Jun-97	23-Jun-97	30-Jun-97
APPROX. 9,749 MINOR APPLICANTS WILL BE APPROVED FOR AFDC*.											
APPROX. 55% (5,350) OF THESE APPLICANTS WILL NOT BE LIVING WITH A PARENT/GUARDIAN*.											
APPROX. 71% (3,650) APPLICANTS WILL ACHIEVE SUPERVISED LIVING SITUATIONS WITH APPROPRIATE CARETAKERS*.											
APPROX. 29% (1,700) APPLICANTS WILL LIKELY RECEIVE SERVICES UNDER AB 908 CRITERION*.											
AFDC EVENTS											
TOTAL AB 908 REFERRALS TO CPS	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75
DIRECT ABUSE/NEGLECT (20-DAY) REFERRALS	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
NON-DIRECT ABUSE/NEGLECT (30-DAY) REFERRALS	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
CPS EVENTS											
20-DAY REFERRALS ASSESSED					12		12		12		12
30-DAY REFERRALS ASSESSED							63		63		63
TOTAL REFERRALS ASSESSED					12		75		75		75
CASES RECEIVING MINOR PARENT SERVICES				0			38		33		33

* - Source: CDSS County Cost Analysis Bureau and Estimates Branch.

AB 908 PROCESS MAP



CPS ASSESSMENTS FOR MINOR PARENT FAMILIES

CPS Assessments

Referrals of minor parent families to child protective services represent a unique population, and may involve some issues not typically encountered in most child protective services cases. Despite this variance, the process used to evaluate these referrals should be identical to existing emergency response (ER) protocols. Specifically, this process includes:

- substantiation:** verification of allegations of abuse or neglect. (NOTE: this factor will be evaluated only for minor parents specifically alleging child abuse or neglect in the home of their parents or caretakers).
- safety:** to what extent the minor or minor parent family is in imminent danger of further abuse or neglect.
- risk:** the potential of immediate or future term abuse or neglect of the minor parent or minor parent family without intervention.

Safety vs. Risk

The differentiation between safety and risk is one primarily of immediate and longer term time periods. Safety factors speak to the potential for immediate harm, while risk factors (as defined here) address intermediate and longer term potential for abuse or neglect. Assessing safety and risk is inherent in current ER protocol, and safety and risk are usually combined on the same instrument. Enclosed is a safety assessment protocol which counties may choose to use. It contains examples of some factors potentially indicating immediate harm. Counties are also encouraged to utilize existing instruments which adequately assess both safety and risk.

Independent Living Assessment

Minor parent families referred to child protective services are in unique circumstances and face many challenges not usually characteristic of "normal" child protective services clients. Therefore, in addition to the factors assessed in typical ER protocol, it is critical to determine to what extent the minor parent can function independently, especially with regard to the ability of the minor parent to adequately care for his or her child(ren). Through this assessment the CWS social worker must evaluate current levels of functioning and decide what minor parent services would be appropriate to ensure adequate levels of support for the family. Enclosed is a model which counties may choose to use to assess these issues. Counties also are encouraged to utilize existing instruments, provided that they address the specific issues facing minor parent families.

MINOR PARENT (MP) ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

DIRECTIONS: Each MP should be assessed relative to the following areas and corresponding statements. The statements--if true--describe a Minor Parent (MP) who *MIGHT* be able to live independently. *ANY* statement that is not true suggests an MP who requires adult supervision.

1) AGE OF THE MINOR PARENT

The MP is seventeen (17) years old.

Comments: _____

2) COPING RESPONSES/EMOTIONAL STABILITY/ABUSE HISTORY

- a) The MP demonstrates appropriate emotional responses.
- b) The MP demonstrates the ability to deal effectively with adversity, crises, and long-term problems in a positive manner.
- c) The MP's developmental history is free of child abuse and/or neglect.

Comments: _____

3) LITERACY

The MP has functional literacy skills.

Comments: _____

4) INTELLECTUAL CAPACITY

The MP appears to have average or above average functional intelligence.

Comments: _____

5) COMMUNICATION/INTERPERSONAL SKILLS

- a) The MP clearly communicates his/her needs.
- b) The MP maintains both social and familial relationships.

Comments: _____

6) CHILD CARE

If the MP is attending school or job training, or is employed, he/she has appropriate child care.

Comments: _____

7) SOCIAL SUPPORT SYSTEM

a) The MP has a constructive social support system that will provide material resources, child care, transportation, supervision, and emotional support.

b) The MP can demonstrate/explain how he/she utilizes this system.

Comments: _____

8) DOMESTIC RELATIONS

a) If residing with others, the MP has a supportive relationship with household members.

b) The MP and other household members make decisions cooperatively and share responsibilities.

c) The MP has relationships that are free of violence.

Comments: _____

9) PHYSICAL HEALTH

The MP is free of health problems that would negatively affect his/her ability to live alone and care for a child.

Comments: _____

10) SUBSTANCE ABUSE

The MP does not evidence any problems with alcohol and/or substance abuse.

Comments: _____

11) PRENATAL CARE/PARENTING SKILLS

- a) If pregnant, the MP has established a schedule of regular prenatal care and is following the advice of her physician.
- b) If pregnant, the MP is attending or planning to attend parenting classes.
- c) The MP demonstrates knowledge and understanding of parenting skills.
- d) The MP is utilizing these skills with his/her child(ren) on a daily basis.
- e) The MP can identify positive traits in her child(ren).
- f) The MP can demonstrate parenting patterns that are age appropriate for the child in the areas of expectations, discipline, communication, protection, and nurturance.

Comments: _____

12) RESOURCE AVAILABILITY/MANAGEMENT

- a) The MP has sufficient resources and income to meet his/her basic needs.
- b) The MP demonstrates the ability to manage income, resources, and expenditures by explaining his/her budgeting plan.

Comments: _____

13) HOUSEHOLD MANAGEMENT

- a) The MP has adequate housing to meet his/her basic needs.
- b) The MP demonstrates the ability to select nutritious food items, store those items, and prepare balanced meals.
- c) The MP demonstrates the ability to maintain his/her home in a clean and orderly manner.

Comments: _____

SAFETY ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES

Directions: The following list of factors are behaviors or conditions that may be associated with a child being in immediate danger of serious harm. Identify the presence or absence of each factor by circling either "yes" or "no." *Note:* The vulnerability of each child needs to be considered throughout the assessment. Young children, as well as children with diminished mental or physical capacities, cannot protect themselves.

- | | | | |
|-----|-----|----|---|
| 1. | Yes | No | Caregiver's behavior is violent or out of control. |
| 2. | Yes | No | Caregiver describes or acts toward the child in predominately negative terms or has extremely unrealistic expectations. |
| 3. | Yes | No | Caregiver caused serious physical harm to the child or has made a plausible threat to cause serious physical harm. |
| 4. | Yes | No | The family refuses access to the child, or there is reason to believe that the family is about to flee, or the child's whereabouts cannot be ascertained. |
| 5. | Yes | No | Caregiver has not, or will not, provide supervision necessary to protect child from potentially serious harm. |
| 6. | Yes | No | Caregiver is unwilling, or is unable, to meet the child's immediate needs for food, clothing, shelter, and/or medical or psychiatric care. |
| 7. | Yes | No | Caregiver has previously maltreated a child, and the severity of the maltreatment, or the caregiver's prior response to the incident, suggests that child safety may be an immediate concern. |
| 8. | Yes | No | Child is fearful of caregiver(s), other family members, or other people living in or having access to the home. |
| 9. | Yes | No | The child's physical living conditions are hazardous and immediately threatening. |
| 10. | Yes | No | Child sexual abuse is suspected, and circumstances suggest that child safety may be an immediate concern. |
| 11. | Yes | No | Caregivers drug or alcohol use seriously affects his/her ability to supervise, protect, or care for the child. |
| 12. | Yes | No | Other (Specify)
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SAFETY PLAN

The safety plan is a plan developed by the Child Welfare Services (CWS) social worker to promote the health and safety of the child(ren) in a family. Regulations specify that the plan for providing services *must* include the number of in-home visits required. *Recommended* elements of the safety plan include:

- Identification of responsible adult(s) in child's life who have frequent contact with the minor parent and the child. A "responsible adult" is an individual who agrees to provide assistance and support to the minor parent and would contact CWS in the event that the minor parent's child is at risk of abuse or neglect.
- Identification of agencies or organizations that are or will be having regular contact with the minor parent and or the minor parent's child, the frequency of their contact, and their agreement to contact CWS in the event that the minor parent's child is at risk of abuse or neglect.
- Identification of any additional services which will be provided or actions which will be taken to strengthen the family and mitigate risk factors identified during the assessment process.

OUT-OF-COUNTY AND OUT-OF-STATE SENIOR PARENTS

In situations where minor parents allege abuse or neglect by senior parents who reside in other counties or states, investigations may require the assistance of Child Welfare Services (CWS) agencies or law enforcement agencies in those counties or states. Investigative procedures for these cases will not differ significantly from other cases involving minors who allege abuse or neglect by parents residing in other jurisdictions. Possible outcomes of CWS investigations are as follows:

- If it is determined that a minor parent and/or her infant would be at risk of abuse or neglect if they were returned to the senior parent's or legal guardian's home and that MPS are appropriate, MPS can be provided by the county where the minor parent and her child(ren) reside.
- If an assessment determines that the minor parent is not capable of living independently, but that risk of abuse or neglect is likely if the minor parent returns to the senior parent's or legal guardian's home, assessment and case planning activities should occur as required by MPP sections 31-100 through 31-235.
- If it is determined that there is no risk to the minor parent or the minor parent's child(ren) if the minor parent returned to the parent's or legal guardian's home, the social worker should refer the minor parent and the senior parents for services which will facilitate the return of the minor parent and the minor parent's child(ren) to the senior parent's or legal guardian's home.
- In situations involving runaway or non-cooperative minor parents, an assessment should be completed to determine whether the minor parents' behaviors would result in risk to themselves or to their child(ren). If it is determined that the minor parent is incapable of providing appropriate care for her child(ren) or herself, assessment and case planning activities should occur as required by MPP 31-100 through 31-235.

For minor parents who meet exemption criteria, no in-person investigation of the senior parent's home is required. Minor parents who do not allege abuse or neglect or do not meet exemption criteria would not be eligible for AFDC or MPS. However, a referral to CWS should be made if there is a reasonable suspicion that the minor parent or her child(ren) are at risk of abuse or neglect due to lack of appropriate adult supervision, lack of financial support, homelessness, or other risk factors.

23-650 PROCUREMENT BY NEGOTIATION 23-650

This section contains policies and procedures which shall be observed by counties in procurements by negotiation, as distinguished from formal advertising, and the limitations upon its use.

- .1 Contracts may be negotiated without formal advertising when one or more of the following exists:
 - .11 When a public emergency exists and the urgency is such that time is not available for formal advertising. This should be applied only in emergencies caused by circumstances outside of the county's control and not for delays caused by county inaction.
 - .12 If rates established by the state are to be used for payments and SDSS has notified the counties that formal advertising is not necessary for a particular program.
 - .13 If the aggregate annual amount involved does not exceed \$10,000. However, qualifications and price must still be solicited through a manner consistent with the county's own procurement policies. Selection shall be made using the criteria set forth in Section 23-650.2.
 - .14 For any service to be rendered by any federal, state, or local government agency, public university, public college or other public educational institution. SDSS may require formal advertising when contracts with government agencies or public educational institutions are considered excessive in price when compared to similar services provided through competition, or where competition between public and private agencies is necessary to accomplish program purposes.