



Department of Children and Family Services Policy and Procedure Guide

Division No: 3–Child Welfare

Effective Date:
November 19, 2008

Chapter No: 2–General Administraton

Item No: 25–Social Worker/Clinician Communication

POLICY: Social workers and clinicians will communicate on a regular basis regarding clients they have in common who are ordered by Juvenile Court to attend mental health services.

PURPOSE: To ensure social workers and clinicians are coordinating the case plan and treatment plan for the best interest of the child and parent.

PROCEDURE:

- I. WHEN SOCIAL WORKERS SHOULD INITIATE COMMUNICATION WITH CLINICIANS ABOUT CHILDREN
 - A. The social worker for a minor may contact the minor’s clinician to obtain professional opinions and updates regarding a minor’s progress or recommendations for additional services.
 - B. The Social worker may also request clinical opinions regarding the minor’s progress, readiness for visits, placement, permanent plan, etc. with the understanding that the Child Welfare teams are responsible for the decisions.
 - C. The minor’s social worker may contact the minor’s clinician to discuss issues related to the psychotherapist-client privilege as identified in WIC 317(F).

Submitting Party/Division Manager/
Program Manager

– _____
Name Date

Deputy/Assistant Director’s Approval

– _____
Andrea Sobrado 7/17/08

Director’s Approval

– _____
Catherine A. Huerta 11/19/08
Name Date

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- D. The minor's clinician may be contacted by the minor's social worker to clarify any recommendations identified in DCFS reports, clinician letters, Team Decision Making comments or narratives attributing information or opinions made by the clinician.
 - E. The minor's attorney may contact the minor's clinician in preparation for trial.
- II. WHEN CLINICIANS SHOULD INITIATE COMMUNICATION WITH SOCIAL WORKERS ABOUT CHILDREN
- A. A child discloses physical or sexual abuse that was not previously reported to Child Protective Services.
 - B. A child expresses fear about visiting their parents.
 - C. A child discloses physical, or sexual abuse, or neglect by the careprovider.
 - D. A child is missing their therapeutic appointments.
- III. WHEN SOCIAL WORKERS SHOULD INITIATE COMMUNICATION WITH CLINICIANS ABOUT PARENTS
- A. The case plan is altered to terminate family reunification
 - B. The social worker notices changes in the parent's behavior.
 - C. The parent is not following the case plan, ie. attending parenting classes, going to substance abuse treatment, visiting their child.
 - D. Thirty days before the six month status review hearing to receive a progress report on the parent's therapy.
 - E. The parent advises the social worker they have a medical problem and/or they are on medication.
 - F. A staffing, TDM, or FR panel is being held for the parent.
 - G. Court dependency will be dismissed.
- IV. WHEN CLINICIANS SHOULD INITIATE COMMUNICATION WITH A SOCIAL WORKER ABOUT A PARENT
- A. A parent is missing their therapeutic appointments
 - B. A parent has questions about their case plan.