

Number
#25-68-27

Date
December 11, 2025

Of interest to
County Directors
Social Services Supervisors and
Staff

Action/due date
Please read information and
prepare for implementation

Expiration date
December 11, 2027

Revised Minnesota Child Maltreatment Intake, Screening and Response Path Guidelines

Topic

Notice of publication of the revised Minnesota Child Maltreatment Intake, Screening and Response Path Guidelines.

Purpose

Provided updated language and revisions to the Minnesota Child Maltreatment Intake, Screening and Response Path Guidelines.

Contact

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Signed



Rebecca St. George
Assistant Commissioner, Child Safety and Permanency

Terminology notice

The terminology used to describe people we serve has changed over time. The Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) supports the use of "People First" language.

I. Background

[DHS-5144 Minnesota Child Maltreatment Intake, Screening and Response Path Guidelines](#) were developed by the Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families (department) in consultation with Intake, Screening and Response Path Workgroup Members. This workgroup is comprised of multiple and varied stakeholders to advise department staff.

A. Purpose of guidelines

The purpose of the Minnesota Child Maltreatment Intake, Screening and Response Path Guidelines is to:

- Provide guidance to local welfare and Tribal agency staff
- Promote statewide consistency in practice and definition
- Inform the public about the types of child safety concerns that should be reported.

Families and communities are best served when child maltreatment screening guidelines are clearly understood and readily available. These guidelines are based on the Reporting Maltreatment of Minors Act, Minnesota Statutes, section 260E.

II. Guideline updates

- Updated language on Minnesota’s Child Safety Framework (page 1)
- Added language around neglect and conditions of poverty (page 9)
- Updated guidance on reports regarding licensed facilities (page 13)
- New agency responsibility for Early Intensive Developmental and Behavioral Intervention (EIDBI) providers and programs (page 13 and 107)
- Updated and added guidance on reports involving licensed providers/facilities within local welfare agency jurisdiction, in particular guidance related to safe sleep licensing violations (page 14)
- Provided clarification on where to report for cross notification to licensing agencies (page 16)
- Updated language on screen out report to alleged child maltreatment reasons (page 18 and 73)
- Added information on child fatality/near fatality (page 23)
- Added information on MAAFPCWDA (page 23)
- Further clarification around identifying household/caregivers for purposes of family investigation or family assessment (page 26)
- New statutory language to include alleged abuse and/or neglect that occurred in another state or country, but the child’s residence is in Minnesota (page 26)
- New statutory language added around labor trafficking (page 43)
- Provided clarifying language on criminal sexual conduct (changes to other circumstances that may be addressed as sexual abuse, page 48)
- Updated language on methamphetamine related environmental hazards (page 56)
- New statutory language around fentanyl related environmental hazards (page 57)

- New statutory language and guidance around reports of unexcused school absences (page 63 and 76)
- Updated statute language on mental injury (page 70)
- Added guidance around child maltreatment cooperative investigation (page 76)
- New statutory language and guidance on noncaregiver human trafficking assessment overview and assessment (page 78 and 83)
- Clarifying guidance and language on facility investigation overview (page 78)
- Added definitions under Appendix A
- Intake guidance is now found in Appendix B
- Appendix F updated for facility investigation responsibility
- Appendix H labor trafficking and exploitation screening guide for screeners and supervisors (screening flowchart for labor trafficking and labor exploitation reports)
- Appendix I Screening reports of school attendance concerns
- Appendix J Facility investigation screening flowchart

III. Technical assistance provided on implementation of screening guidelines

Local welfare agency staff may contact Rapid Consultation at 888-234-1138 or DCYF.CSP.RapidConsult@state.mn.us for technical assistance or to help guide decision-making in challenging case situations such as screening, track assignment, safety planning, maltreatment determinations and case planning.

For general child protection safety-related questions, local welfare agency staff may contact the Child Safety and Family Preservation unit at dcyf.csp.safety@state.mn.us.

Subscribe to the department's child safety and prevention monthly e-update at [DCYF Child Safety and Prevention Update](#) for information about trainings, resources for implementation and guidance to support agency protocols.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Advisory

This information is available in accessible formats for people with disabilities by calling (651) 431-4660 (voice). For other information on disability rights and protections, contact the agency's ADA coordinator.