

CHANGE NOTICE FOR MANUAL

Date January 23, 2004

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

To: County Directors of Social Services

Effective: March 15, 2004

Attached to this letter is the new Section 1409: Domestic Violence. The new section becomes effective March 15, 2004. Because the information contained in 1409 is new and requires some special considerations in conducting CPS Investigative Assessments and Family Assessments (for MRS counties only), training from the North Carolina Association of County Directors of Social Services will be provided prior to the effective date. You will receive information on the training opportunities at a later date.

Section 1409: Domestic Violence contains both introductory and background material on domestic violence along with required policy. Pages 1-13 contain background material. Pages 13 (beginning with the title "Intake") through 36 contain the required policy. In addition, we have provided a "Domestic Violence Policy Checklist" for ease of use. It, too, is attached to this notice.

The new section and policy are outgrowths of a county workgroup made up of staff from county DSS's, State DSS and Domestic Violence experts. The workgroup was convened to examine the long-standing issues confronting CPS social workers and Domestic Violence professionals. Because these issues are so important to both child and non-offending partner safety, and to batterers' accountability, we have assigned a new section providing specific domestic violence procedures and policies as social workers conduct assessments in these families.

Please ensure that all staff members who have child welfare responsibility are provided copies of the new section or access to it via the DSS web site. The on-line manual web address is:

<http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dss/childrenservices/>

Once on the Division's web page, click on "Quick Links", then click on "Child Welfare Manuals", and click on Chapter VIII, Section 1409. Any questions may be addressed to the Family Support and Child Welfare Services Section staff at (919) 733-4622.

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Instructions:

Insert Section 1409: Domestic Violence, dated 03/15/04.

Sincerely,

Jo Ann Lamm, Program Administrator
Family Support and Child Welfare Services

Attachments
JAL/ehh

Cc: Pheon Beal
Sherry Bradsher
Sarah Barham

FSCWS Team Leaders
Children's Programs Representatives