



## **Policy: Newborns or Other New Children in Households with Active Investigation or Ongoing Services**

**ChildNet Number: CN 007.018**

**Original Approved Date: June 1, 2003**

**Policy Revised Date(s): February 1, 2005, June 2, 2010, June 22, 2010,  
July 9, 2014, May 9, 2018**

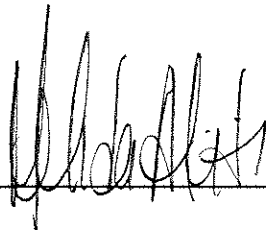
**Policy Sunset Date:**

**COA Standard(s): FKC 12.07**

### **Statement of Policy:**

ChildNet recognizes that there may be a child born to a family currently under protective supervision, as well as other circumstances involving a new child who is living in the home where other children are currently under protective supervision with ChildNet. This policy is to address appropriate action as to a new child in such situations.

**Board Chair's Signature:**



**Date:**

5/18/18



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**Procedure Sunset Date:**

**COA Standard(s): FKC 12.07**

**Definitions (If any):**

**Statement of Procedure:**

This procedure establishes the measures which ChildNet uses to address the addition of a child into a family currently under protective supervision.

- A. New sibling or child to open family under protective supervision regardless of household of focus, a household with non-maltreating parent with whom a child has been released or has a concurrent case plan goal, household under a family made arrangement, and relative/non-relative household.
1. The assigned Child Advocate of Dependency Case Manager (DCM) is to immediately report to the supervisor an impending birth, a child born into a family, or any other circumstance involving a new child who is living in the home where all other children are currently under protective supervision with ChildNet. A supervisor case consultation is completed to discuss the pre-birth assessments and interventions necessary including updates to the safety plan, Ongoing Family Functioning Assessment (FFA-O) or progress updates, whichever is due at the time he or she learns of the pregnancy. and case plan. The Child Advocate/ Dependency Case Manager is to complete a pre-birth family team meeting prior to the baby's due date, at least 30 days before the child is expected to be born or within 72 hours after the Child Advocate or Dependency Case Manager learns of the pregnancy if the child is expected to be born in less than 30 days.
    - a. If the father is a non-offending parent or not a parent on the sibling's case, an "Other Parent Home Assessment" must be completed on the father prior to the pre-birth family team meeting.
    - b. The pre-birth assessment information will be documented in a Progress Update by the case manager.
  2. A pre-birth legal staffing is to be completed 30 -45 days before the child is expected to be born.



- a. The progress update, the pre-birth assessment information, other parent home assessment should be available in Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS) for all participants to be able to access for the staffing.
  - b. Participants will be case manager, case manager supervisor, and Child Legal Services (CLS) and Office of Attorney General (OAG).
  - c. The staffing will include discussions on:
    - The completed FFA Ongoing or Progress Update (which includes pre-birth assessment information in the domains)
    - The OPHA is there is a new father involved, other parent home assessment.
    - Recommended case plan modifications
3. The Child Advocate (CA)/Dependency Case Manager (DCM) will complete the FFA-O or progress update any new children within the home, whichever is due next at least 30 days before the child moves in the home or within 72 hours after the Child Advocate learn that the child will be moving in the home. The Child Advocate(CA)/Dependency Case Manager (DCM) shall provide Children's Legal Services the FFA-O or progress update to file with the court within 14 days of receipt of the document when completed before a child is expected to be born or to move into a move and after the new child enters the home. The assessment shall include the following:
- a. The identification of the child's father and his role.
  - b. A description of the expectations and shared responsibilities for the care of the child.
  - c. A description of the shared agreement and understanding among all household members with significant responsibility as to the care of the newborn and identification of needed supports.
  - d. A description of how the new family dynamics and conditions are likely to be impacted for cases with an in-home safety plan.
  - e. A description of how the care of the new child will impact the current responsibilities for safety management for cases with an out-of-home safety plan.
  - f. An assessment of the new child's vulnerability to the new or existing danger threats.
  - g. An assessment of the current caregiver's protective capacities of those persons responsible in the household to determine sufficiency to manage the physical and emotional demands associated with the care and protection of the newborn infant or additional child.



4. Upon the birth of the baby, the Case Manager/Child Advocate will notify CLS or the OAG of the new baby's birth. If there are suspicions that the child has been abused, abandoned, or neglected, the Dependency Case Manager/ Child Advocate will contact the Hotline.
  - a. The progress update will be completed and a supervisory consultation completed within 14 days of the birth. The completed Progress Update will be provided to CLS or the OAG to file with the court. The Progress Update will be completed in CCWIS.
  - b. The case manager will update the Safety Analysis to determine whether the criteria for an in-home safety plan are met and/or if any changes are necessary to the existing Safety Plan or case plan.
  - c. The name and demographic information of the new child is to be added immediately CCWIS.
  - d. In Palm Beach, a CLS request for staffing will be submitted within 20 days of the birth to have the post-birth staffing with CLS on any newborn who did not have dependency filed on (non-judicial) to ensure that there have been no significant changes and an in- home non- judicial safety plan is still the most appropriate action
5. When there are other new children in the home:
  - a. Non-judicial in-home supervision: the case manager will request a Legal Sufficiency staffing with BSO to determine legal actions necessary when the family no longer meets criteria for an in-home safety plan, or the parents are not demonstrating efforts to achieve case plan outcomes
  - b. Judicial in-home supervision: the case manager will:
    - Provide CLS with the child's full name, date of birth, and the father's name
    - Request a staffing with BSO, OAG and CLS if the Progress Update concludes that the child would be unsafe in the home and an in-home safety plan is not feasible in order to determine if there is legal basis to amend the current dependency petition or file another dependency petition
    - Notify the Guardian ad Litem (GAL) if currently involved with a sibling, of the new child and any related safety plan actions
    - Conduct background screenings of any new child over the age of twelve (12) to assess for delinquency, child abuse, or other child welfare services history
    - Complete the Progress Update and any necessary updates to home studies. The completed in-home safety analysis will be based on the assessment of family conditions, including care of a newborn, to determine



if the current safety plan can be modified to incorporate protections to the newborn or other new child in the home

- Modify the safety plan and add the new child to the Family Functioning Assessment (FFA) and case, or home study.

## B. Cases Involving a Child Born to a Child in Foster Care

1. The minor child in foster care (minor mother) who gives birth while living in a foster home is to be provided counseling by appropriate staff, including adoptions staff, to assist her in arriving at a suitable and realistic plan for her own future and for that of her baby and in making the choice whether to keep and care for her child or relinquish the child for adoptive placement.
  - a. If there are reasons to suspect that a child in a safety plan was impregnated as a result of any of the sexually battery crimes per FS 794.011, a report shall be made to law enforcement
  - b. The minor mother will be offered counseling to assist her in arriving at a suitable and realistic plan for her own future and for that of her baby.
  - c. If the minor mother decides to place the child for adoption, she is to be referred to a licensed child-placing agency for adoption planning with agency staff.
  - d. If the minor mother chooses to keep her child or is uncertain, placement of the minor mother and her child is to be, unless contrary to the best interests of the infant, in the same foster home or residential program in order to strengthen attachment and provide the minor mother with the opportunity to learn child-caring skills from the foster mother or residential program staff.
  - e. In cases where the minor mother's emotional or mental capacity to parent are in question or the minor mother has a juvenile delinquency history involving acts of violence, the Child Advocate/ Dependency Case Manager is to secure any additional evaluations necessary to assess coping skills, mental health issues and abilities to protect the child prior to the birth of her child. The findings and recommendations set forth in the evaluation are to be considered in determining whether or not the minor mother can be a safe, viable placement for the child.
  - f. The identification of the child's father and his role in shared responsibilities.
  - g. Determine how much responsibility for the care of the child the minor parent will assume
2. In all cases, diligent efforts are to be made to establish the child's paternity and to locate and involve the father in developing permanency plans.
3. The minor mother associated with an FFA will be assessed as a caregiver with significant responsibility in order to assess the information domains of adult functioning, parenting and discipline and protective capacities identified. Information



about the newborn will be provided in a new and separate child functioning information domain.

4. If the minor parent has sufficient protective capacities to care for and protect the newborn, the parent may remain in an out-of-home safety plan if the current placement provider is capable and willing to be the safety management provider for both parent and child. If the minor parent or provider is not willing or able to provide care for the newborn, the case manager will explore the least intrusive options available for the minor parent and child for another out-of-home placement provider
5. When there is sufficient information that the minor parent requires 24 hours per day supervision with the baby and a separate out-of-home safety plan is necessary, the Case Manager will request a Ludwig staffing with the designated ChildNet staff. If determined that a dependency petition is needed, the dependency petition shall include a request for appointment of counsel for the parent and GAL for the baby.
6. If there is reasonable suspicion of abuse, abandonment, or neglect the Child Advocate is to call a report into the abuse hotline after consultation with the supervisor and/or Director or recommended during the pre-birth legal staffing.

President's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

05-18-18