



**NC Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Social Services**

Safety Section Intake Policy Updates

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Why Changes Were Made to Policy...



- 1. Alignment with State Statutes and Case Law**
- 2. Clarity of Policy**
- 3. Clarity of Guidance**

Changes

- **Intake manual**
 - CWIS vs. non-CWIS
 - Policy vs. Process
- **Caretaker Definition Clarification**
- **SAI Screening**
- **2nd-level Screening Clarification**
- **Parent Request to Dismiss Safe Surrender**
- **Conflict of Interest and Jurisdictional Issues**



Intake Manual Changes

- **CPS Intake Manual**
 - DSS-1402
- **SDM Intake Manual**
 - CWIS
- **Policy is the same**
 - Cross Reference Guide
- **Process is different**



Caretaker Definition

- **An individual responsible for the health and welfare of a juvenile with a significant degree of parental type responsibility for the juvenile.**
- **Case Law: *In re R.N.N.*, 186PA14 (2015)**

Substance Affected Infant

- Notifications are required federally for all SAI infants to ensure a POSC
- However, toxicology alone is NOT grounds for a screen-in for Child Welfare
- Realignment with state statute and recent case law, with support from the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA).
- Case Law: *In re D.S.*, 286 N.C.App.1 (2022)

Substance Affected Infant Screening Policy

Any infant born exposed to substances that are not attributed to medical treatment to include medication-assisted treatment, and exposure is indicated by any of the following:



Infant's positive toxicology screen for drugs or alcohol, other than prescribed AND



a medical impact to the child (i.e. hospitalization as a direct result of withdrawal or medical condition that requires ongoing medical care that is directly attributed to the drugs or alcohol in the child's system); OR

demonstrating behavioral impact on the parent's ability to care for the infant;
OR

there are other maltreatment concerns, including the parent's ability to care for the infant
OR a pattern of substantiations or findings.

SAI—Plan of Safe Care (POSC)

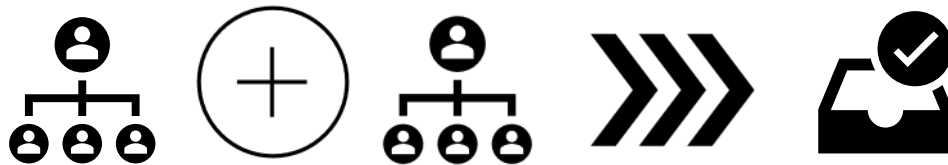
- **SAI notifications are made by healthcare providers only**
- **Referral to Care Management for At Risk Children (CMARC) prior to screening decision**
- **Referral ≠ POSC**
- **Child Welfare completes the POSC when involved**
- **POSC ≠ Safety Assessment**
- **Consultation with Regional Specialist for additional support**

2nd Level Screening

Two workers may not screen for 2nd level review



Two supervisors may screen for 2nd level review



Safe Surrender Infant Changes

An infant's parent surrenders the infant less than 30 days old by voluntarily delivering the infant to one of the safe persons listed below and does not express an intent to return for the infant.

- A health care provider who is on duty or at a hospital or at a local or district health department or at a nonprofit community health center.
- A law enforcement officer.
- A social services worker who is on duty or at a local department of social services (DSS).
- A certified emergency medical service worker or firefighter.

Parent Request to Dismiss Safe Surrender

- A parent who safely surrendered their infant and has contacted the agency to regain custody of the infant
- Falls under Neglect, per legislation
- Has been added to the 1402



COI and Jurisdiction for Case Transfer

- **County receiving the call will:**
 - Take info from reporter
 - Contact appropriate county and send Intake info
 - Follow up to ensure received
- **County receiving the report will:**
 - Screen the report
 - And if accepted, determine assessment track and response time
- **There is no change to the Immediate Response policy**
- **Utilize cross reference guide for differences in screening types (CWIS vs 1402)**

COI and Jurisdiction for CWIS Counties

- **If a CWIS county receives an Intake from a non-CWIS county, call reporter back if mandatory questions are not covered, or any additional info is needed**
- **CWIS → CWIS counties will transfer cases within the system, but this does not nullify communication required between counties**

Questions

