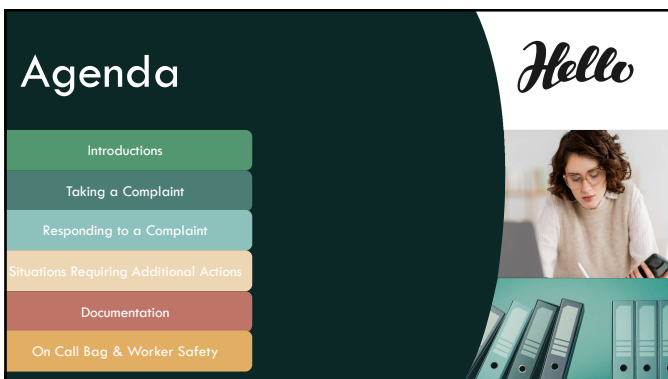




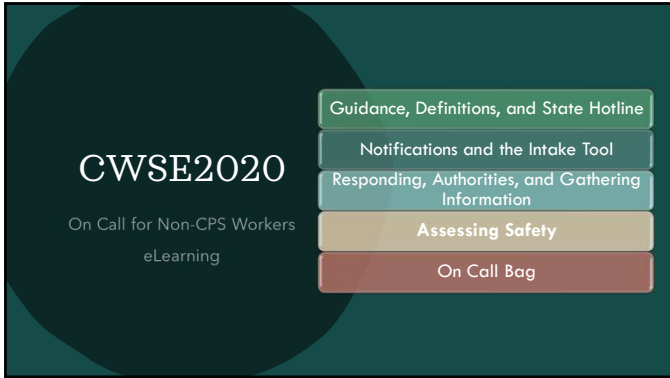
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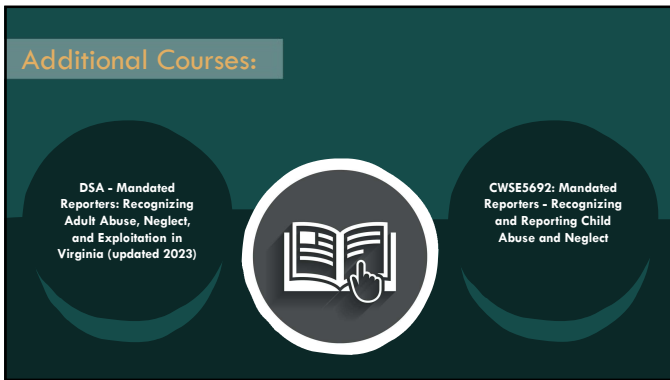
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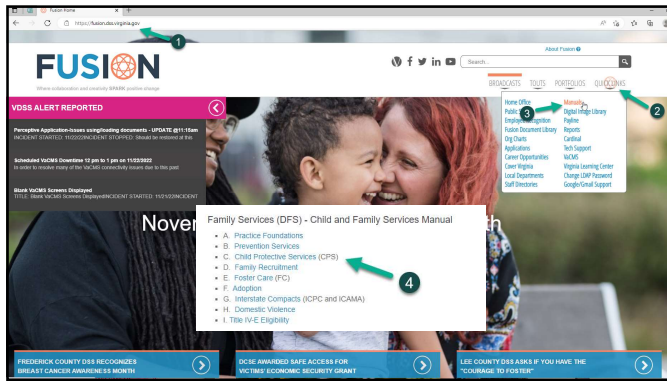
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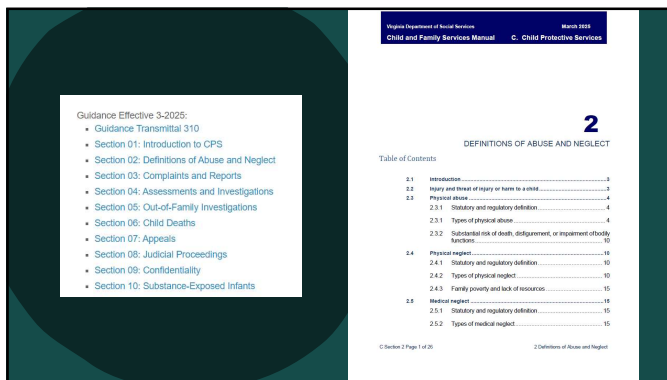
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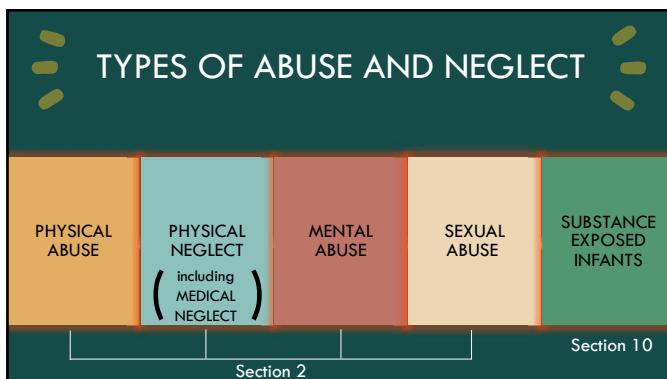
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DEFINITION OF PHYSICAL ABUSE

Physical abuse occurs when a caretaker creates or inflicts, threatens or allows to be created or inflicted upon a child a **physical injury** by other than accidental means or creates a substantial risk of death, disfigurement, or impairment of bodily functions.

Physical Injury = Hurt or damage to the body.

Section 2.3

15


DEFINITION OF PHYSICAL ABUSE

Physical abuse occurs when a caretaker creates or inflicts, threatens or allows to be created or inflicted upon a child a physical injury by other than accidental means or creates a substantial risk of death, disfigurement, or impairment of bodily functions.

Other than Accidental =

- Consider the act which precedes the injury.
- The result is unforeseen, unexpected, unusual.

Section 2.3



16


DEFINITION OF PHYSICAL ABUSE

Physical abuse occurs when a caretaker creates or inflicts, threatens or allows to be created or inflicted upon a child a physical injury by other than accidental means or creates a substantial risk of death, disfigurement, or impairment of bodily functions.

Substantial Risk of Death or Disfigurement =

- Could it have killed the child?
- Could it have seriously injured the child?

Section 2.3



17



IS IT PHYSICAL ABUSE?

- Is there an injury?
- Was it accidental?
- Was there a threat of:
 - Death?
 - Disfigurement?
 - Impairment of Bodily Functions?

18

TYPES OF PHYSICAL ABUSE

- Asphyxiation and Strangulation
- Bone fracture
- Head Injuries
- Burns/Scalding
- Cuts, bruises, welts, abrasions
- Internal injuries
- Poisoning
- Sprains/Dislocation
- Gunshot wounds
- Stabbing wounds
- Munchausen syndrome by proxy
- Bizarre discipline
- Exposure to sale or manufacture of certain controlled substances
- Abusive Head Trauma and battered child syndrome
- Other Physical Abuse

Section 2.3.2

19

PHYSICAL ABUSE: EXPOSURE TO SALE OR MANUFACTURE OF CERTAIN CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

- Exposure to sale or manufacture can pose a threat to a child's life
- You should not be the first responder to drug manufacturing allegations

Section 2.3.2.14

20

PHYSICAL NEGLECT

- ❖ Physical neglect occurs when there is the failure to provide **food, clothing, shelter, necessary medical treatment** or **supervision** for a child to the extent that the child's **health or safety** is endangered.

Section 2.4.1

21

PHYSICAL NEGLECT

Acts of OMISSION not COMMISSION

22VAC40-705-50. Types of abuse and neglect.

B. Physical neglect occurs when there is the failure to provide food, clothing, shelter, necessary medical treatment, or supervision for a child to the extent that the child's health or safety is endangered. This also includes abandonment and situations where the parent's or caretaker's own incapacitating behavior or absence prevents or severely limits the performing of child caring tasks pursuant to § 63.2-100 of the Code of Virginia. This also includes a child under the age of 18 years whose parent or other person responsible for his care knowingly leaves the child alone in the same dwelling as a person, not related by blood or marriage, who has been convicted of an offense against a minor for which registration is required as a violent sexual offender pursuant to § 9.1-902 of the Code of Virginia. In situations where the neglect is the result of family poverty and there are no outside resources available to the family, the parent or caretaker shall not be determined to have neglected the child; however, the local department may provide appropriate services to the family.

No child whose parent or other person responsible for the child's care allows the child to engage in independent activities without adult supervision shall for that reason alone be considered to be an abused or neglected child, provided that (i) such independent activities are appropriate based on the child's age, maturity, and physical and mental abilities and (ii) such lack of supervision does not constitute conduct that is so grossly negligent as to endanger the health or safety of the child. Such independent activities include traveling to or from school or nearby locations by bicycle or on foot, playing outdoors, or remaining at home for a reasonable period of time. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to limit the provisions of § 16.1-278.4 of the Code of Virginia.

22

TYPES OF PHYSICAL NEGLECT

- Abandonment
- Inadequate Supervision
- Inadequate Clothing
- Inadequate Personal Hygiene
- Inadequate Food
- Malnutrition
- Knowingly leaving a child with a person required to register as Tier III sexual offender
- Failure to Thrive
- Labor trafficking
- Other physical neglect
- Medical Neglect

Section 2.4.2

23

PHYSICAL NEGLECT: INADEQUATE SUPERVISION

Section 2.4.2.2

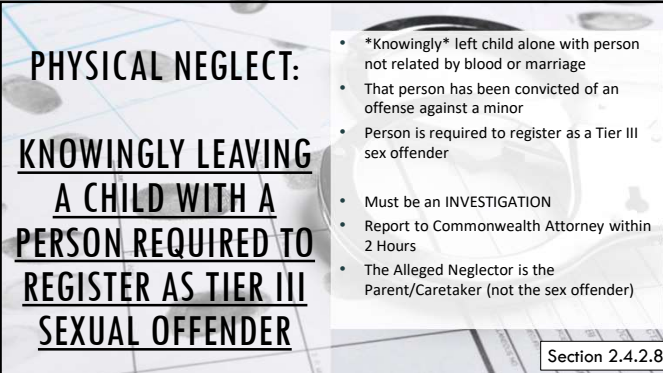
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CONSIDERATIONS FOR BEING LEFT ALONE:

- How long are they home alone? Is it day or night?
- What is the child's level of maturity/responsibility/behavior?
- Does the child have access to a charged phone, do they know how to use it, and is someone available to answer if a child calls?
- Does the child have access to a neighbor who is willing, able, and available to help?
- What does the child say they would do in the event of a fire? What would they do if they got hurt?
- Does the child have any special medical / mental health / developmental needs?

25




PHYSICAL NEGLECT:

KNOWINGLY LEAVING A CHILD WITH A PERSON REQUIRED TO REGISTER AS TIER III SEXUAL OFFENDER

- *Knowingly* left child alone with person not related by blood or marriage
- That person has been convicted of an offense against a minor
- Person is required to register as a Tier III sex offender
- Must be an INVESTIGATION
- Report to Commonwealth Attorney within 2 Hours
- The Alleged Neglector is the Parent/Caretaker (not the sex offender)

Section 2.4.2.8

26



NEGLECT DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Truancy
- Failure to wear seat belts
- No electricity/running water in the home*
- Violating a custody order
- Poverty
- Reasonable Independent Activities

Section 2.4.3

27

MEDICAL NEGLECT

(a subcategory of Physical Neglect)

Failure by the caretaker to obtain and/or follow through with a complete regimen of medical, mental or dental care for a condition that if untreated could result in illness or developmental delays or withholding of medically indicated treatment.

Section 2.5.1

28

TYPES OF MEDICAL NEGLECT

SERIOUS INJURY-BURNS, FRACTURES, LACERATIONS
INGESTION OF BLEACH, PILLS, TIDE PODS

EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE OR TREATMENT

NECESSARY MEDICAL CARE OR TREATMENT

DIABETES, ASTHMA

NECESSARY DENTAL CARE OR TREATMENT

ROTTING TEETH, ABSCESSES

NECESSARY MENTAL CARE OR TREATMENT

SUICIDAL THREATS

Section 2.5.2.5: OTHER MEDICAL NEGLECT

29


MENTAL ABUSE/NEGLECT

Caretaker creates, threatens, allows, or inflicts, a mental injury by other than accidental means or creates a substantial risk of impairment of mental functions.

Includes acts or omissions resulting in harm to a child's psychological or emotional health or development.

Section 2.6.1

30



MENTAL ABUSE & NEGLECT

- Obtain documentation supporting a nexus between caretaker's action/inaction and child's mental dysfunction (2.6.3)
- Non-organic Failure to Thrive (2.6.5)
- Domestic Violence (2.6.2)

Section 2.6

31



SEXUAL ABUSE

Caretaker commits or allows to be committed any act of sexual exploitation, including sex trafficking, or any sexual act upon a child in violation of the law.

Section 2.7.1

32



TYPES OF SEXUAL ABUSE

- Exploitation**
 - Porn, Photos, Prostitution
- Molestation**
 - Touching Intimate Parts
- Intercourse & Sodomy**
 - Oral, Anal, Vaginal, Object
- Sex Trafficking** → (Investigation or HTA)
 - Facilitating Commercial Sex
- Other**
 - Exposing, Soliciting

Section 2.7.2

33

SEXUAL ABUSE — MINOR CARETAKERS

- Minor Caretakers (under 18 years) may be abusers
- Non-Caretaker (“Child on Child”) is not Valid for CPS
- Refer ALL reports of Sexual Abuse to Law Enforcement

34

OTHER SEXUAL ABUSE CONSIDERATIONS

Must establish sexual gratification

Be aware of personal values regarding sex

Additional Training: CWS2021W & CWS2031W

Investigate with Law Enforcement (Team Approach)

Naked ≠ Sexual

35

SUBSTANCE EXPOSED INFANTS

The Code of Virginia § 63.2-1509B requires the local department of social services to accept as valid a report that a newborn infant may have been exposed to controlled substances prior to birth.

Section 10.1

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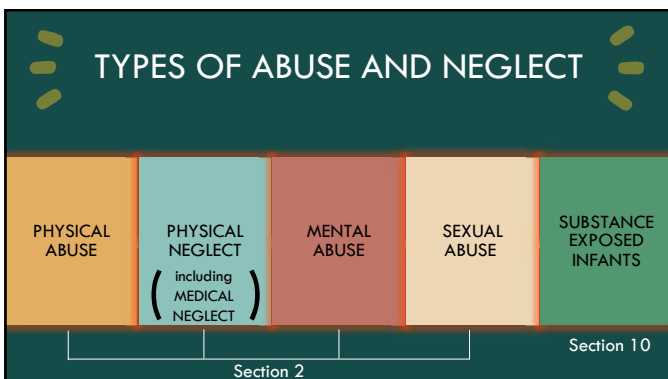
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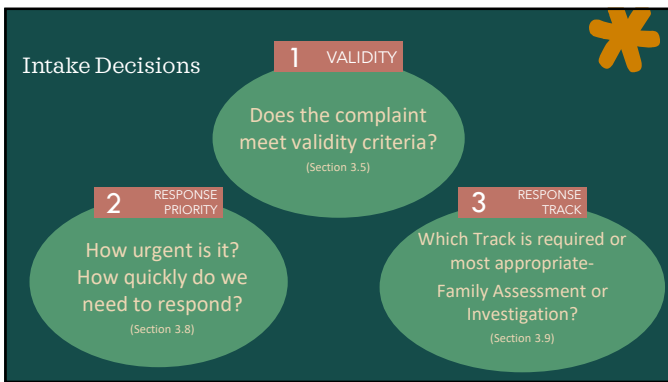
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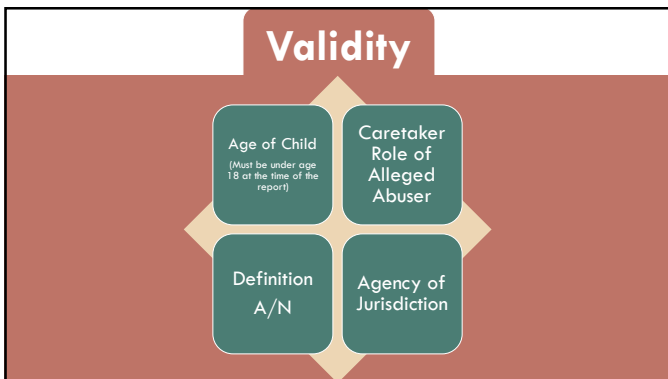
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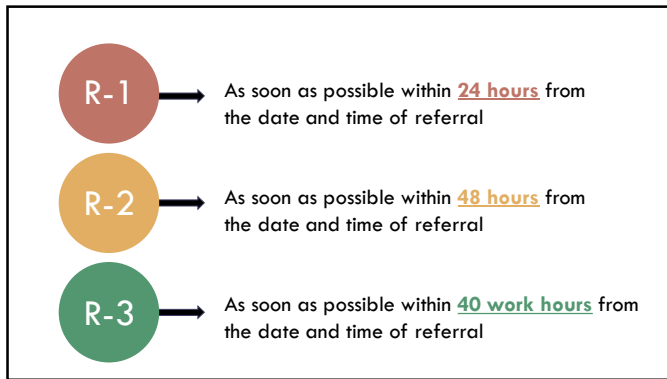
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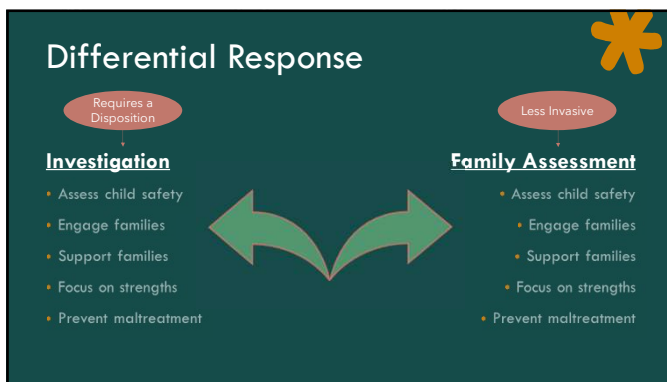
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State Hotline Call

Saturday Afternoon at 3:25pm



A state hotline worker calls you and provides the following information from the complainant:

- Caller is the mother of 3 children who are due to return to their father on Monday after school.
- Caller stated that today she found bruising on her son Nicolas' back and when she asked what happened, Nicolas told her that his dad hit him when he got in trouble.
- Caller said that she does not want the children to return to their father's home where they are "obviously not safe!"

What else do you need to know?

49

Law Enforcement Call

Sunday at 1:55am



- A law enforcement officer calls you to report she and her partner responded on a domestic violence report and found that the couple's 7-year-old was injured when the father threw a glass across the room hitting the child.
- The father is being arrested, the mother and child are headed to the hospital for their injuries.

What else do you need to know?

50

STRUCTURED DECISION MAKING (SDM)

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
6000-100-0001 (03/01)

Case Name: _____ Referral #: _____ Location: _____
 AID Name: _____ Supervisor: _____ Referral Date: _____

STEP 1: SCREENING ASSESSMENT

Section 1: Relationship Type

☐ Dating Partner
☐ Marriage/Partner
☐ Family Member (e.g., parent, sibling, grandparent, stepfamily, friend, or other relationship)
☐ Non-Relationship (e.g., neighbor, acquaintance, stranger, or other)
☐ Other (Specify): _____

Section 2: Incident Details

☐ Was there physical contact?
☐ Was there verbal abuse?
☐ Was there emotional abuse?
☐ Was there financial abuse?
☐ Was there sexual abuse?
☐ Was there stalking?
☐ Was there threats?
☐ Was there other?

Section 3: Safety Assessment

☐ Is the victim in immediate danger?
☐ Is the victim in danger of harm?
☐ Is the victim in danger of death?
☐ Is the victim in danger of serious injury?
☐ Is the victim in danger of sexual assault?
☐ Is the victim in danger of other?

Section 4: Referral Decision

☐ Referral is required (e.g., medical, legal, counseling, etc.)
☐ Referral is not required (e.g., no further action needed)
☐ Referral is pending (e.g., waiting for more information)
☐ Referral is denied (e.g., no service available)
☐ Referral is pending (e.g., waiting for more information)

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52

[illegible]

53

[illegible]

54



MUST BE AN INVESTIGATION:

- Sexual abuse
- Child fatality
- Serious injury
- Child taken into custody
- Out-of-family
- Baby Doe
- Third valid report within 12 months
- Child left with a Tier III sexual offender

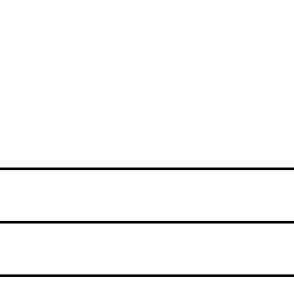
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The Gomez Family

INSTRUCTIONS:
Read Handout B and Complete the SDM Intake Tool

56



REGARDLESS OF WHO IS CALLING - ALWAYS USE THE SDM INTAKE TOOL TO DETERMINE YOUR RESPONSE

Community Partners

- Child is picked up by Law Enforcement and no caretaker has responded for the child
- Caseworker from a therapeutic foster care agency calls to report that a child in care is being difficult and the foster parents have requested the child be moved

Foster care runaways

- Sex-trafficking - [Public Law 113-183](#)

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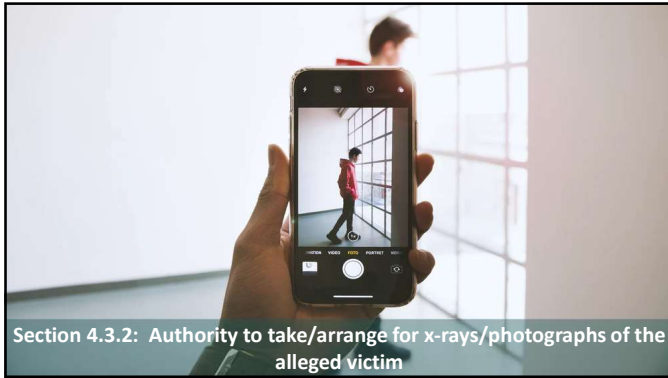
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66

WHAT AM I NOT ALLOWED TO DO?

- Enter a home without permission
- Take photos inside a home without permission
- Transport a child without permission
- Violate a court order
- Give legal advice



Section 4.4

67

CHILD INTERVIEWS

- Use the child's words
- Do not suggest answers
- Young children are concrete thinkers
- Ask developmentally appropriate questions
- No bribes or rewards for talking to you
- Avoid "yes/no" questions

68

The Best Way to Interview



- You said _____. Tell me *all* about _____.
- Tell me everything about _____.
- Tell me more about _____.
- What happened next?

The "Ten Step Investigative Interview" (Handout D)

69

Interviewing a Child

- Introduction
- Record
- Practice Narrative
- Allegation
- SAFETY
- Closure

*Tell me why I came to talk to you today.

*I heard you saw (a policeman, a doctor, a firetruck, etc.). Tell me all about that.

*Is (someone) worried that something may have happened to you? Tell me what they're worried about.

*I heard that someone may have bothered you. Tell me everything about that.

*I heard that someone may have done something to you that wasn't right. Tell me about that.

Do not mention A/N or names

70



Let's Transfer the Learning

Find Day One TOL Document

1. Read Handout F: Minimal Facts Interview

2. Shepard Family Scenario

Part 1

Use the SDM Intake Tool and determine:

- Is it Valid?
- If yes, what is the *Maltreatment Type*?
- What is the *Response Priority*?
- What is the *Track*? (Family Assessment or Investigation)

Part 2

Answer questions on SDM Safety Assessment:

- Did you answer "YES" to any; if yes, which ones?

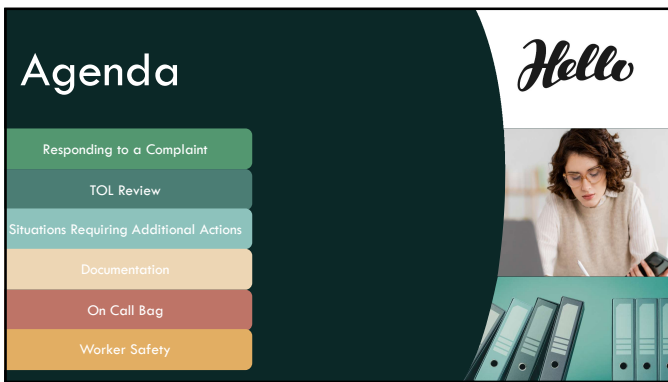
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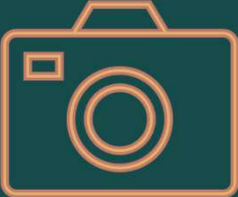
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MINIMAL FACTS INTERVIEW

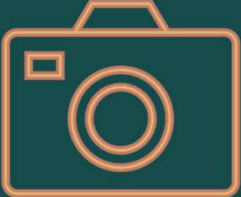
What happened?	Who did it?	Does the alleged offender have access to the child who is a victim?	Where did it happen?
When was the last incident?	Is a SANE exam needed?	Are there other victims?	How is the safety of the child/ren assured?


76

Documenting Injuries with Photographs




77





Take LOTS of photos.

If it's not documented, it didn't happen!



78

Take photos of the child's face for identification.



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Start Wide, and then Move in Closer
(Take photos at various distances)

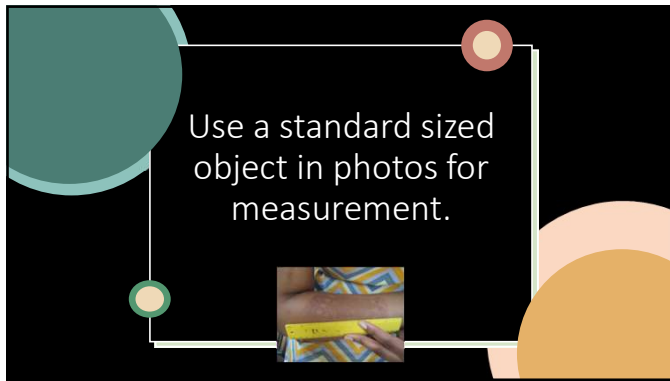


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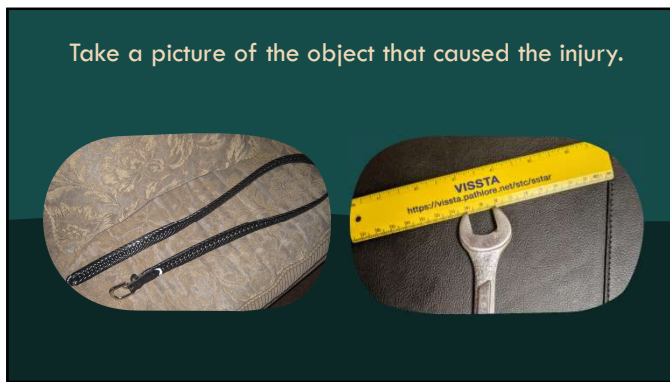
Take Photos of Both Sides of the Body



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Take pictures of the alleged injured area, even if there is **NO** injury.




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Additional Course:



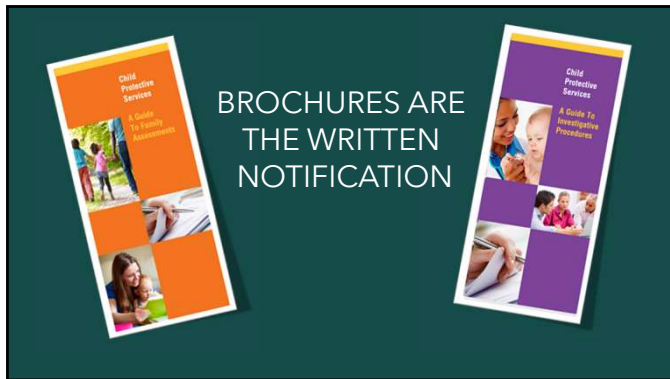
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INTERVIEWING ADULTS



- Provide notice of the allegations and the Family Assessment/Investigation
 - Offer to record the interview
- Must advise the mother, father or other involved caretaker of their rights against self-incrimination if they have been criminally charged
- Seek Engagement & Show Respect: identify needs and capabilities

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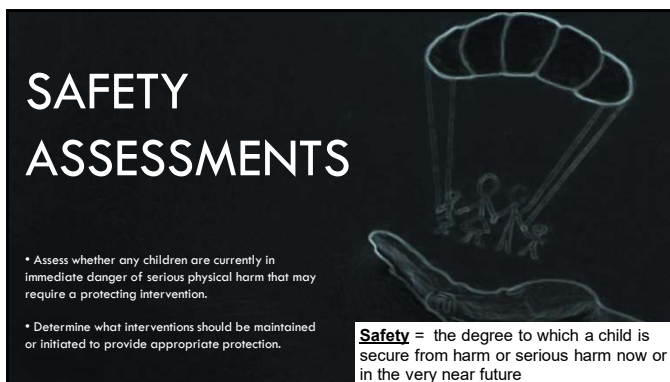
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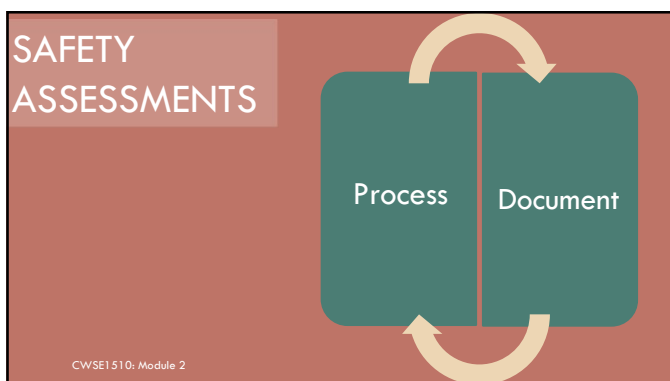
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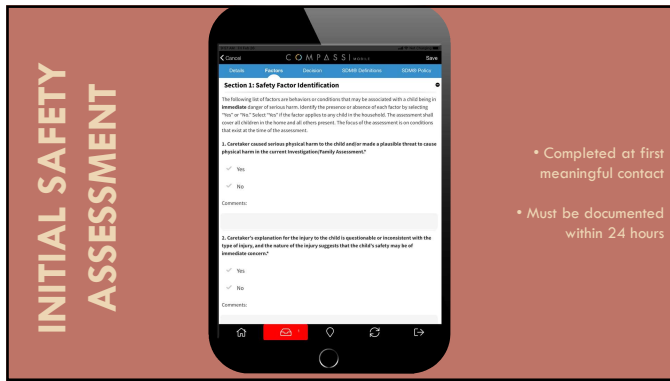
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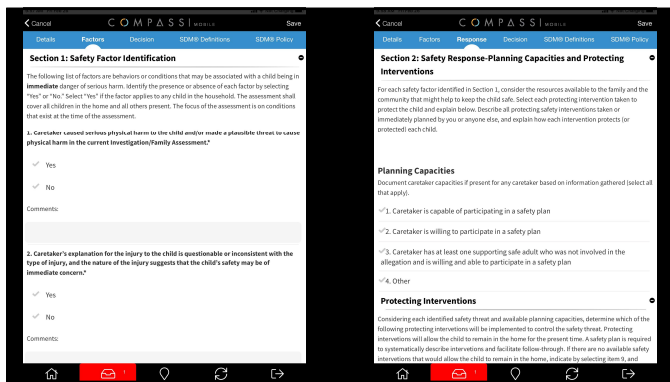
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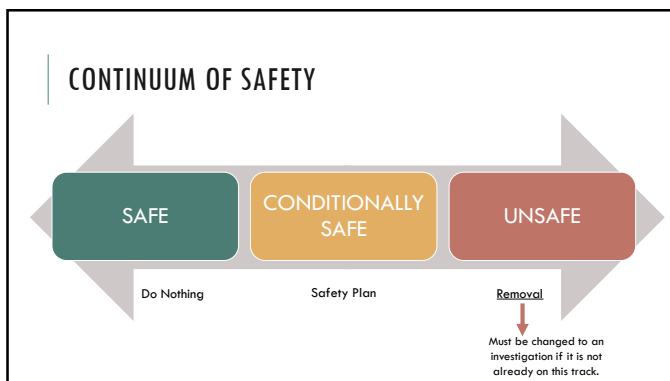
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Parental Child Safety Placement

Parental Child Safety Placement Program

Temporary living situation for a child at risk of entering foster care

You must:

- Observe the home environment
- Complete CPS and Criminal Background Checks on all adults in the home
- Complete the Permanency Assessment Tool

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ASSURING CHILD SAFETY:

- Complete the Safety Assessment
- If the child is not SAFE, complete a Safety Plan
- If no Safety Plan can be completed: Child is UNSAFE
- If child is UNSAFE = Removal

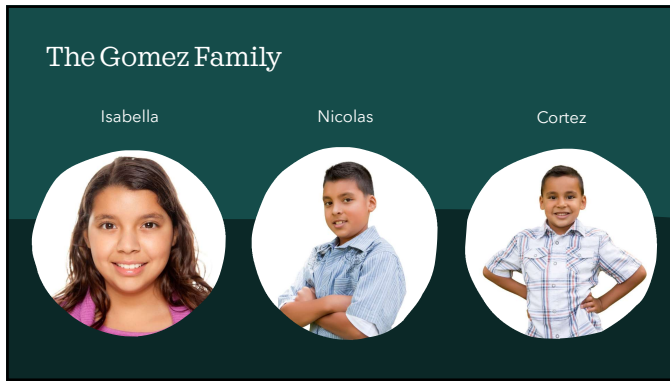
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The Gomez Family

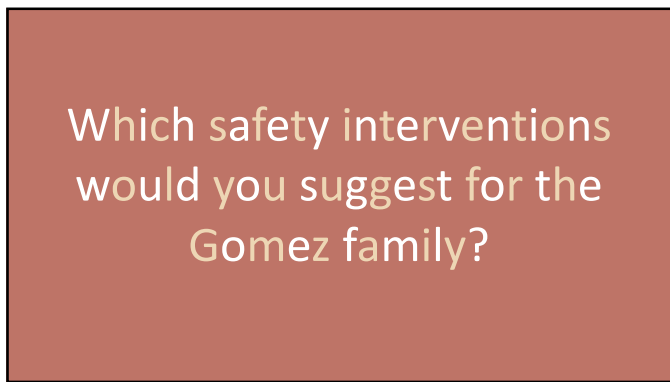
INSTRUCTIONS:

Read Handout H and Complete the SDM Safety Assessment

108



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111

SITUATIONS REQUIRING
ADDITIONAL ACTIONS

- Death of a child from abuse or neglect
- Injury or threatened injury to a child involving a felony or Class 1 misdemeanor
- Any sexual abuse, suspected sexual abuse, or other sexual offense involving a child in sexually explicit visual material, as defined in Code of VA Section 18.2-374.1
- Any abduction of a child
- Any felony or Class 1 misdemeanor drug offense involving a child
- Contributing to the delinquency of a minor in violation of Va. Code §18.2-371
- Child left alone with unrelated Tier III sexual offender

Handout I

112

Multidisciplinary Teams (MDT)
Section 1.6

113

Sexual Abuse

- Know whether your agency works with a Child Advocacy Center (CAC) for forensic interviewing
- Know your agency's memorandum of understanding (MOU) with their multi-disciplinary team (MDT)
- Notify Commonwealth Attorney and Law Enforcement within 2 Hours
- Complete a minimal facts interview

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Minimal Facts Interview

115

Child Fatalities and Near Fatalities

Section 3.7

- Supervisor
- Law Enforcement
- Commonwealth Attorney
- Regional Practice Consultant
- Medical Examiner's Office

116

Investigated Fatalities in SFY 2023

Founded	Unfounded	Pending, Appealed, or Unable to Complete	Total
38	107	26	173

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Substance Exposed Infants


- Infant must show signs of having been "affected by" a substance – legal or illegal



Section 10

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"AFFECTED BY" may mean:




1	Having withdrawal symptoms
2	Impaired growth
3	Preterm Labor
4	Neurodevelopmental delay
5	Physical delays (breathing, eating, eliminating, etc.)

119

Substance Exposed Infants

- Infant must show signs of having been "affected by" a substance – legal or illegal
- What Substance?
- Plan of Safe Care



Section 10

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Plan of Safe Care

- Started by the service provider who first began working with the woman during her pregnancy – Could be -
 - a drug or alcohol treatment program provider
 - the physician's office
 - a participant on the Community Services Board
- Should include ALL service providers

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Substance Exposed Infants

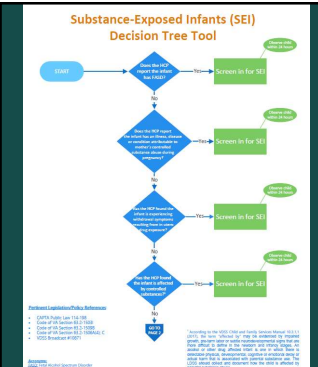
- Infant must show signs of having been "affected by" a substance – legal or illegal
- What Substance?
- Plan of Safe Care
- SEI Decision Tree



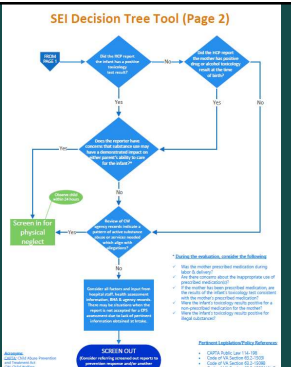
Section 10

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Substance-Exposed Infants (SEI) Decision Tree Tool



SEI Decision Tree Tool (Page 2)



123

Substance Exposed Infants

- Infant must show signs of having been "affected by" a substance – legal or illegal
- What Substance?
- Plan of Safe Care
- SEI Decision Tree
- Being in the hospital **DOES NOT** make the baby safe!

Unless an Investigation is required, SEI is placed on the Family Assessment track.


Always R.I. Response
(Face to Face with Infant within 24 Hours)

Section 10



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Important Questions to ask at intake for an SEI referral:



- Does the infant have any illness or condition attributed to mother's substance use?
- Is the infant experiencing withdrawal symptoms?
- Are there concerns about parents' ability to care for the infant due to substance use?
- Do CPS records indicate a history or pattern of substance use?
- Services during pregnancy? Is there a Plan Of Safe Care (POSC)?

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Further Questions to ask in an SEI referral:




- Was the mother prescribed medication during labor and delivery?
- Are there concerns about the inappropriate use of prescribed medications?
- If the mother has been prescribed medication, are the results of the infant's toxicology test consistent with the mother's prescribed medications?
- Were the infant's toxicology results positive for a non-prescribed medication for the mother?
- Were the infant's toxicology results positive for illegal substances?

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In the CPS role, we are required to make a **safety plan** with the parents of the infant.

What do you think might be important to include in the safety plan?



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Virginia Department of Social Services
Child and Family Services Manual C. Child Protective Services

March 2020

10

SUBSTANCE-EXPOSED INFANTS

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© Section 10 Page 1 of 24

10 Substance-Exposed Infants

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Removals

- What do you need to do before deciding to remove a child and place them in foster care?
 - Explore other options
 - Have services been provided or can you explain why they cannot be provided?
 - Contact the on-call supervisor for approval
- FPM
- Going to Court

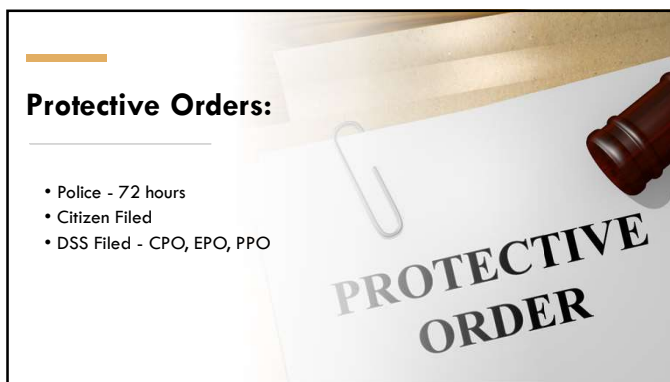
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What are the other options?

- The alleged offender leaving the home
- Relative or fictive kin placement or temporary place to stay
- A protective caretaker is able to care for and supervise the child

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Protective Orders:

- Police - 72 hours
- Citizen Filed
- DSS Filed - CPO, EPO, PPO

PROTECTIVE ORDER

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Family partnership meetings (FPM)

If a child is removed from their home/taken into DSS custody, the FPM should be held prior to the preliminary court hearing (within 5 days)

If the child is at risk of removal, a FPM can be held within 24 hours to consider alternatives to placement

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Removals

What do you/foster parents/foster care worker/alternative caretakers need to know about a child?

How can we ask this in a way that the parent will be willing to provide the details?



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Removed

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i1OeQUw8AJE0>



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Human trafficking assessment

Section 4.2



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Human trafficking assessments:

Focus on:

- Immediate safety
- The child and family
- Needs and services
- Reducing future risk

Do NOT focus on:

- The abuser
- "Proving" the abuse

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- Actively listen to the family's story
- Inquire about and respect each family's culture
- Seek to develop a partnership with the family
- Support the family in identifying its own goals
- Provide concrete assistance to meet basic needs
- Recognize and build on family strengths
- Assist the family in building informal support networks

4.2 Human Trafficking Assessment

4.2.1 Track Decision

Pursuant to § 63.2-1709, 1.4 of the Code of Virginia, all complaints or reports alleging a child is a victim of human trafficking require the LSSS to complete a human trafficking assessment, unless during the course of the human trafficking assessment it is determined an investigation or family assessment is required by law or is necessary to protect the safety of the child. The completion of a human trafficking assessment does not require the complaint or report meet the four validity criteria outlined in § 63.2-1807, §§ 63.2-1808, §. The completion of an investigation or family assessment on a complaint or report alleging a child is a victim of human trafficking requires a valid complaint or report and each of the four validity criteria outlined in § 63.2-1807, §§ 63.2-1808 must be satisfied.

4.2.2 Human trafficking definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this section shall have the following meaning, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

Term	Definition
Commercial sex act	Commercial sex act means any act on account of which anything of value is given to or received by any person (§ 63.2-1807, § 1808).
Commercial sexual exploitation of children	Commercial sexual exploitation of children refers to a range of crimes and activities involving the sexual abuse or exploitation of a child for the financial benefit or expenses are exchanged for meeting a need (including housing and non-monetary benefits) or received by any person, including all information of persons under the age of 18 years.

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Additional Course and Resource:

CWSE4000: Identifying Sex Trafficking in Child Welfare

Tricked: Inside the world of teen sex trafficking

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hq49xycyq5U>

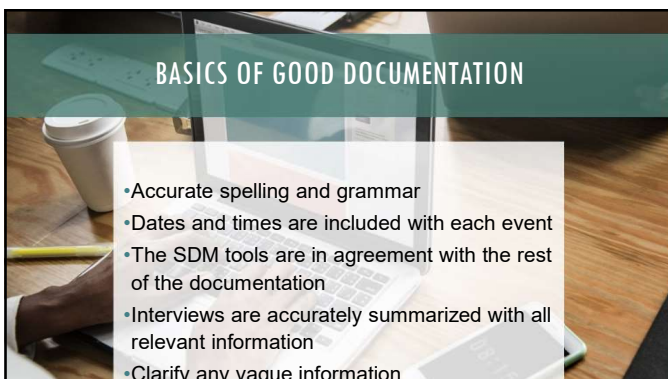
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