

## DSS Children's Division Critical Events Protocol

### Critical Events include:

- Child fatalities (in which CD has prior involvement, DSS requests and media has inquiries);
- Near fatalities, fatalities suspicious of CA/N, or Egregious abuse/neglect, , including sexual abuse, (in which CD prior involvement); and
- Other serious events such as homicide by child.

Note: A near fatality is defined as a report in which a determination is made that a child is in serious or critical condition as the result of sickness or injury caused by suspected abuse, neglect or maltreatment.

### How Critical Events come to CD attention:

When a child dies in Missouri, the coroner or medical examiner must report the death to CANHU.

#### *Who is notified by CANHU*

1. CA/N deaths are assigned to the County and courtesy alerted to STAT (the opposite occurs on an F-referral)
2. When CANHU determines a death a high priority or the death occurs after hours CANHU will notify CD Administration by pager

#### *Who notifies CD Central Office:*

1. Local CD office notifies CD Central Office via CS-23 Critical Events Report. By policy, the completed CS-23 will be emailed to Central Office staff, using the group email address "F\_CriticalEventReport". Staff should include their respective Circuit Manager and field support and Regional Administrator in the email. The form may also be sent via fax.
2. Daily Web Focus Report of all child deaths
3. STAT will notify CD Central Office when a non-CA/N death occurs

### Within 24 hours (*CD activities and information CD will be able to supply CD Director & DSS*)

- CD field begins investigation if ca/n death or prepares for CFRP (Child Fatality Review Panel)
- if non ca/n death CS-23 form emailed (or faxed) by CD field to CD central office, including the following information:
  - Child personal Data
  - Parent/Guardian/Other children data
  - Perpetrator personal data (including criminal history)
  - Event/Incident information (including involvement of law enforcement, media, juvenile court, CFRP)
  - Background of prior CD involvement information
- CD field contact STAT immediately when child is in CD custody (see CD04-\_\_Memo)
- STAT begins their investigation (if applicable)
- CFRP Chairperson may schedule immediate panel meeting
- DLS consultation on securing the record. *"The record is defined as containing all information in the fatality event, the investigation on the child, any other reports of abuse/neglect on the child"*

*victim or other household members, the foster care record (including the foster care licensing record) and the parent's record.”*

**Within 48/72 hours** *(Above data, plus the following information)*

- CD field staff collects all child files, fatality specific data, foster parent licensing file (if applicable)
- CD Local Office will begin conducting record review
- CD field staff to continue co-investigation with law enforcement and STAT (if applicable)
- CD field staff prepares case summary (see CD04-Memo Attachment B) for CD Director utilizing current information, including information from agencies who, prior to the child fatality had worked with the family & when necessary a copy of case record (when the family has prior CD involvement)