

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P. O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

February 28, 2011

What's Inside:
Revision of Emotional Abuse Definition

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: REGIONAL EXECUTIVE STAFF, CIRCUIT MANAGERS, AND CHILDREN'S DIVISION STAFF
FROM: CANDACE A. SHIVELY, DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: REVISION OF EMOTIONAL ABUSE DEFINITION IN THE GLOSSARY SECTION

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform staff of revisions made to the glossary section of the Child Welfare Manual regarding the definition of *emotional abuse*. This revision has been made to provide consistency throughout the manual.

Emotional abuse is defined by case law as, "an injury to the child's psychological capacity or emotional stability, which is demonstrated by an observable or substantial change in the child's behavior, emotional response, or cognition, including anxiety, depression, withdrawal, or aggressive behavior."

For additional information on emotional abuse see [Section 7 Chapter 33 of the Child Welfare Manual](#).

NECESSARY ACTION

1. Review this memorandum with all Children's Division staff.
2. Review revised Child Welfare Manual chapters as indicated below.
3. All questions should be cleared through normal supervisory channels and directed to:

PDS CONTACT

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PROGRAM MANAGER

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CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS

[Section 7 Chapter 33 Emotional Abuse](#)
[Section 7 Index](#)

Section 7 Glossary
FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS N/A
REFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES N/A
RELATED STATUTE §210.110(1) RSMo.
ADMINISTRATIVE RULE N/A
COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION (COA) STANDARDS N/A
CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEW (CFSR) N/A
PROTECTIVE FACTORS N/A Parental Resilience Social Connections Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development Concrete Support in Times of Need Social and Emotional Competence of Children
FACES REQUIREMENTS N/A