

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

## CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P. O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

August 28, 2007

**What's Inside:**

Death of a child in a pending investigation.

MEMORANDUM

TO: REGIONAL, EXECUTIVE STAFF, CIRCUIT MANAGERS,  
AND CHILDREN'S DIVISION STAFF

FROM: PAULA NEESE, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS: WHEN A VICTIM IN A CA/N  
INVESTIGATION DIES DURING THE INVESTIGATION

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform staff of *Child Welfare Manual* revision that prohibits the Children's Division from closing a child abuse or neglect investigation if a child subject in an the investigation dies during the course of the investigation. The first investigation will remain open until such time as any separate investigation by the Division and/or a review by the local child fatality review panel regarding the death is completed. This includes CA/N fatalities as well as non-CA/N Fatalities.

Staff will use code "Z (other)" on the *FACES Delayed Conclusion* screen and fill in "Child Fatality pending subsequent investigation or Fatality Review". Prior to closing the pending investigation, staff must document in the narrative one of the following:

- Finding of subsequent investigation;
- Result of Fatality Review Board; or
- Fatality Review Board found circumstances did not warrant review. (example: non-suspicious natural causes)

These revisions are the result of 2007 legislation, Senate Bill 25 which will go into effective August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007. (Reference: Children's Division Memorandum [CD07-47](#) 2007 Legislative Changes; Senate Bill 577; Senate Bill 25; Senate Bill 84)

**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:

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**CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS:**

Section 2 Chapter 4.1.10 [Delayed Conclusions](#)

Section 2 Chapter 4.3.8 [Fatality, Near-Fatality Abuse/Neglect Or Other Critical Event](#)

**REVISED MISSOURI STATUTE:**

[Section 210.145](#)

**2007 LEGISLATION:**

[Senate Bill 25](#)