

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P.O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

August 18, 2008

What's Inside:

Involving Law Enforcement
and the State Technical
Assistance Team (STAT)

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: PAULA NEESE, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: INVOLVING LAW ENFORCEMENT AND THE STATE
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM (STAT)

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform staff of an update made to the Child Welfare Manual to further clarify the role and function of the State Technical Assistance Team (STAT) in co-investigating child abuse/neglect investigations. As pointed out in a recent [Practice Alert](#), STAT's involvement in Children's Division cases is appropriate however, their involvement **does not** relieve a Children's Service Worker of their responsibilities to investigate reports of child abuse and neglect, to make appropriate contact with families, and to assume responsibility for the initial and on-going safety assurances and safety planning of children during the investigation.

Further clarification regarding the authority of STAT: types of situations investigated by STAT; process for making a referral to STAT; the role of STAT and CD co-investigating reported concerns; resources available to STAT; and, delayed conclusions in cases involving STAT can be referenced in the Child Welfare Manual Section 2 Chapter 4.2 'Involving Law Enforcement and the State Technical Assistance Team'.

NECESSARY ACTIONS:

1. Please review this memorandum with all Children's Division Staff.
2. All questions should be cleared through normal supervisory channels and directed to:

PDS CONTACT:
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PROGRAM MANAGER
Melody Yancey
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CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS:	

<u>Section 2 Chapter 4.2 Involving Law Enforcement and the State Technical Assistance Team</u>	
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