

04-03-05-01 Advisement of Concerns Reported

The social worker completing a child protective services assessment shall, at the initial time of face-to-face contact with the individual subject of a report of suspected child abuse and neglect, advise the individual of the concerns reported. Because detailed information is often still being identified throughout the assessment process, the information provided at this initial time will be general in nature. For example – “We are responding to a report expressing concern of physical abuse of Joey” or “The concern reported to us is lack of adequate supervision of your children”.

04-03-05-01-03 Advisement of Concerns When Subject Unknown

The CPS social worker may not know at the outset of an assessment who, if anyone, has caused the suspected child maltreatment. Therefore, the Social Worker in these cases should provide such advisement to the parent(s), guardian(s), or adult caretaker(s) in the child's home

04-03-05-01-05 Advisement of Concerns of Serious Physical Abuse or Sexual Abuse

In fulfilling this policy of providing information to subjects of a child abuse and neglect assessment, we should be careful not to compromise the cps assessment or a joint or a concurrent criminal investigation that may lead to criminal charges against a perpetrator of serious child maltreatment. In cases alleging severe physical abuse or sexual abuse, for example, it is critical that CPS and law enforcement investigations be either jointly conducted or at the least carefully coordinated. The law enforcement investigation and the CPS assessment of cases involving alleged perpetrators of serious crimes against children should be synchronized to be sure that criminal investigations are not undermined. Synchronizing our efforts will help ensure that:

- relevant evidence of offenses is not concealed, compromised or destroyed;
- child victims are not unduly influenced to give or not give information to CPS or law enforcement investigators; and
- no actions are taken that would place children at greater risk.