

Bulletin

July 31, 2006

Minnesota Department of Human Services □ P.O. Box 64941 □ St. Paul, MN 55164-0941

OF INTEREST TO

- County and tribal directors
- Social services supervisors
- Child protection intake screeners

ACTION/DUE DATE

Effective immediately.

EXPIRATION DATE

August 1, 2008

New Data Capacity Developed for Birth Match

TOPIC

The process for handling reports that are generated by matching Minnesota Department of Health's birth records with the Department of Human Services' records of parents who have inflicted substantial bodily harm to children or who had their parental rights terminated.

PURPOSE

Provide direction for county social service agencies when they receive a notice from the Department of Human Services.

CONTACT

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SIGNED

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Assistant Commissioner
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Background

Minnesota Statutes, section 144.225, subdivision 2b mandates that the commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Health provide birth record data to the commissioner of the Department of Human Services (DHS). The Department then cross references birth record data with SSIS child protection report data. This cross-referencing enables the Department to identify children who may be subject to threatened injury, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 626.556, subdivision 2, paragraph (n).

This process provides the Department with the capacity to match birth records with child protection records to assist in identifying infants residing with parents who:

- Have had their parental rights terminated
- Have had permanent legal and physical custody of a child involuntarily transferred to a relative
- Have been determined to have seriously maltreated another child.

The Department will notify counties when there is a newborn residing in their county whose parent(s) fall within the “threatened injury” category. This will facilitate the county fulfilling its responsibility under Minnesota Statutes, section 626.556 receipt of a maltreatment report; and Minnesota Statutes, section 260C.301, subdivision 3, Required Termination of Parental Rights.

Action

The Department will notify county child protection intake via electronic mail when the weekly review of New Birth Match report, provided by the Social Services Information System (SSIS), indicates that a newborn resides in their county and is at risk of “threatened injury” under the definition in Minnesota Statutes, section 626.556, subdivision 2. When available, information on the newborn’s tribal affiliation will also be provided to assist with the county’s responsibilities under the Indian Child Welfare Act.

When counties receive notification, they are responsible for assessing/investigating the family with whom the newborn is residing, per Minnesota Statutes, section 626.556, and Minnesota Statutes, section 260C.301.

For additional information, contact Thom Campbell or John Langworthy, Child Safety and Permanency Division.

Special Needs

This information is available in other forms to people with disabilities by contacting us at (651) 2828-5329 or through the Minnesota Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TDD), 7-1-1 or 1-877 627-3848 (speech-to-speech relay service).