

Bulletin

August 8, 2007

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

OF INTEREST TO

- County Directors
- County child support directors and supervisors
- State and county child support staff

ACTION/DUE DATE

Please complete domestic violence and sexual abuse awareness training.

EXPIRATION DATE

August 8, 2009

Domestic violence and sexual abuse awareness training offered for child support workers

TOPIC

Domestic violence and sexual abuse awareness training programs for child support agency employees.

PURPOSE

Remind county child support agencies of domestic violence and sexual abuse awareness training requirements and announce online training now available from DHS.

CONTACT

CSED Helpdesk
(800) 657-3511 (toll free)
(651) 296-8086 (metro)

SIGNED

CHARLES E. JOHNSON
Assistant Commissioner
Children and Family Services

BACKGROUND:

Minnesota Statutes, section 256.741, subd. 14, requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to establish domestic violence awareness and sexual abuse training for representatives of the child support agency involved in making a determination of cooperation under subdivision 6 or reviewing a claim for good cause exemption.

In 1999, DHS offered statewide training to county child support, financial workers, Minnesota Care, and state and county employment services staff. To create and provide training in 1999, the Department of Human Services contracted with Cornerstone Advocacy Services, Incorporated. All the materials created by Cornerstone, including a videotape and a handout became the property of the Department of Human Services.

A modified version of this training is now available online through TrainLink (<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/TrainLink>) in the Child Support Learning Center. The training consists of a workbook that can be printed at the learner's location, a web-based training with video segments, and an online assessment. These pieces are designed to work together.

DHS believes this training provides a good understanding and awareness of domestic violence and sexual abuse and how it impacts an individual's ability to comply with program requirements and become self-sufficient. We also believe this training promotes a better relationship between county agency staff and the domestic violence service providers in their communities.

The training offered by DHS meets the requirements of the statute. Several counties have developed their own training that also meets the statutory requirements.

ACTION REQUIRED:

Counties are responsible to monitor their employees' compliance with the statutory requirements. County child support employees involved in determining cooperation or reviewing good cause claims who have not attended domestic violence and sexual abuse awareness training must do so. Options include:

- Take the DHS course through the Child Support Learning Center. Completion is tracked on the individual's transcript in the Learning Center.
 - Read the handout titled "Domestic Violence and Child Support."
 - Complete the web-based training, "Domestic Violence." (Note: The Department of Human Services will provide a DVD version of the video segments for this training to local child support offices on request. The DVD will work in the DVD drive of a computer and in most DVD video players. To request a DVD, use the Contact Us link on the home page of the Child Support Learning Center to send an e-mail to the Child Support Enforcement Division.)

- Successfully complete the assessment at the completion of the class. A score of 75% is required to have this course recorded as complete on your training transcript.
- Take other training that meets the statutory requirement and track employee completion at the county level.

SPECIAL NEEDS:

This information is available in other forms to people with disabilities by contacting us at 651-431-4400 (voice), 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).