

# Policy Transmittal

## Office of Child Welfare Program



Deena Loughary, Child Safety Program Manager  
**Authorized Signature**

**Number:** CW-PT-23-005  
**Issue Date:** 05/01/2023

**Topic:** Protective Services – Family Stress Indicators

**Transmitting (check the box that best applies):**

New Policy     Policy Change     Policy Clarification     Executive Letter  
 Administrative Rule     Manual Update     Other:

**Applies to (check all that apply):**

<input type="checkbox"/> All DHS employees	<input type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors
<input type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging: {Select type}	<input type="checkbox"/> Health Services
<input type="checkbox"/> Aging and People with Disabilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS)
<input type="checkbox"/> Self Sufficiency Programs	<input type="checkbox"/> ODDS Children's Intensive In Home Services
<input type="checkbox"/> County DD program managers	<input type="checkbox"/> Stabilization and Crisis Unit (SACU)
<input type="checkbox"/> Support Service Brokerage Directors	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):
<input type="checkbox"/> ODDS Children's Residential Services	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Child Welfare Programs	

<b>Procedure Title:</b>	Family Stress Indicators
<b>Procedure Chapter/Section:</b>	Chapter 3 “Assessment”, Section 8 “Family Stress Indicators”
<b>Reference:</b>	<a href="#">Child Welfare Procedure Manual</a>

### **Discussion:**

The Child Protective Services (CPS) Chapter 3 “Assessment”, Section 8 “Family Stress Indicators” in the Child Welfare Procedure Manual has been updated to include a section on identifying and selected family stress indicators during a CPS assessment. The family stress indicator selection is not new for CPS, however, there has not previously been clear guidance available.

The family stress indicators were derived from the list of risk factors used in the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS), in which the federal government gathers information all fifty states, the District of Columbia and Puerto

Rico to track data to identify and examine trends in child welfare systems at a national level.

The indicators are utilized by CPS to identify family dynamics that may increase stress or anxiety within a family. Family stress indicators may be observable or openly shared by families, or the family may not be able to identify on their own. Considering family stress indicators can assist in our understanding of the challenges the family may be experiencing and is helpful in assessing the family condition.

**Implementation:**

The updated family stress indicators were presented at the CPS Quarterly meetings in March 2022, and the OR-Kids application was updated on 06/23/2022 in Maintenance Release 30. The draft procedure was made available to the Family Preservation demonstration sites last summer and is now being made available statewide.

**Local Office Action Required:**

For staff involved in identifying family stress indicators, please review. If you have questions, please direct them to your CPS consultant or reach out to the Safety Program.

*If you have any questions about this policy, please contact:*

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