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Informational Letter

Transmittal:	08-OCFS-INF-15
To:	Commissioners of Social Services Executive Directors of Voluntary Authorized Agencies
Issuing Division/Office:	Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Development
Date:	December 11, 2008
Subject:	Changes to the Safety Assessment and Risk Assessment Profile
Suggested Distribution:	Directors of Social Services Child Protective Supervisors Child Welfare Supervisors Staff Development Coordinators
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Attachments:	no
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Filing References

Previous ADMs/INFs	Releases Cancelled	Dept. Regs.	Soc. Serv. Law & Other Legal Ref.	Manual Ref.	Misc. Ref.
		18 NYCRR 428.3(b)(ii)-(v). 428.5, 432.2(b)(3)(ii)(c) and 432.2(b)(3)(iii) (b)	SSL§§ 409-f and 446		

I. Purpose

The purpose of this informational letter is to provide social services districts and voluntary authorized agencies with information regarding the changes in the Safety Assessment and the Risk Assessment Profile. These changes were made to improve safety and risk assessment practices in order to reduce repeat maltreatment and abuse, and are supported by CONNECTIONS Q3-08.

II. Background

The concept of safety assessment and safety response has always been an integral facet of sound, responsible casework practice. In 1990 New York State further strengthened this crucial assessment and decision-making requirement by developing structured protocols for Safety Assessments and Risk Assessments. The Safety Assessment has provided a focused and concise examination of child safety within the context of child abuse and maltreatment, while the Risk Assessment Protocol (RAP) is a research-based assessment protocol designed to assist workers in making informed decisions regarding the level of risk of future abuse or maltreatment. With the implementation of CONNECTIONS case management functionality in Build 18, a fully integrated set of assessment tools were made available to guide assessments of safety, risk, family strengths and needs and guide the development of safety plans and service plans.

III. Program Implications

The changes to the Safety Assessment and Risk Assessment Profile have simplified the language, and have clarified safety decision options to clearly reflect who needs to take what action in order to protect children when immediate or impending danger is identified.

Changes have been made in the following areas:

- Safety Definitions
- Safety Factors
- Safety Decision
- Safety Plan
- Controlling Interventions
- Risk Assessment Profile Risk Elements

To obtain further detailed information regarding these changes the following resource tools may be used:

- A teleconference entitled: **Changes to Safety and Risk Assessments to Reduce Repeat Maltreatment (8/27/08)** is available on <http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/training/default.asp> and www.TrainingSpace.org. Contact your Staff Development Coordinator to be registered to use Training Space.
- Updated online HELP (within the CONNECTIONS application)
- An Impact Analysis document entitled: CONNECTIONS Q3-08 (Build 18.10) Impact Analysis – Safety Assessment, Risk Assessment Profile, FAD and Other System Changes can be found at [http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/imp/build18/Build%2018.10%20Q3-08%20Impact%20Analysis--Final-9-19-08%20\(3\).pdf](http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/imp/build18/Build%2018.10%20Q3-08%20Impact%20Analysis--Final-9-19-08%20(3).pdf)
- **Q3-08 (Build 18.10) Job Aid** can be found at: <http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/imp/build18/Build%2018-10%20Job%20Aid%20v5%200.pdf>
- A Computer Based Training (CBT) refresher on Risk and Safety Assessments (coming soon)
- An updated Safety/Risk Field Guide (coming soon)

/s/ Nancy W. Martinez

Issued By:

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