

BUTLER COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES

POLICY NO.: 9.6	SUBJECT: LAW ENFORCEMENT COORDINATION
OAC: 5101:2-36-12 (Requirements for Cross-Referring Reports of Child Abuse and Neglect)	EFFECTIVE DATE: 1/27/04
	REVISION DATE: 6/28/05, 11/21/06, 10/09
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PURPOSE:

Butler County Children Services remains committed to enhancing the coordination of efforts between the agency and law enforcement and promulgates this policy to further enhance officer involvement in the child protection decision-making process.

POLICY:

9.6.1 Law enforcement may be contacted for assistance at any time during a child abuse or neglect investigation/assessment for any reason, including but not limited to worker safety. OAC 5101:2-36-12 shall be followed when mandatory law enforcement involvement is required.

PROCEDURE:

1. If charges were not filed at the time of a police removal, Butler County Children Services and its assigned staff retain the right to determine the best course of action for insuring the safety of affected children following the removal, but at a minimum the following shall occur:
 - A. The assigned caseworker and supervisor shall meet with their Administrator or another Administrator if theirs is not available the next business day following a police removal to determine if the filing of a civil or criminal action is in the best interest of the child, regardless of whether or not a safety plan has been implemented .An Assistant Prosecuting Attorney may be contacted as needed.
 - B. Following consultation with the Administrator regarding the best method for securing the child’s safety, and/or possible involvement with the courts, the caseworker or supervisor shall attempt to notify the involved law enforcement officer(s) via telephone to advise them of the agency’s decision.
 - C. This notification shall be made within one business day of meeting with the Administrator and shall be documented in the case record indicating the time, date and name of any law enforcement personnel notified.

- D. Law enforcement personnel may obtain a review of the decision not to pursue legal action by requesting a meeting with the assigned caseworker, supervisor and Administrator whenever the officer(s) believes other information necessary to the decision-making process needs to be communicated, or to garner a deeper understanding of why no court involvement will be pursued.
- E. Upon receiving such a request from the law enforcement officer, the BCCS caseworker shall contact the Administrator who shall coordinate a meeting time. The BCCS Ombudsman or non-involved administrator, or such other person(s) as may be designated by the Executive Director, shall make themselves available to facilitate the meeting.
- F. The assigned caseworker shall note in the case record the time, date and name of the officer(s) requesting such a review and the date of referral to the Intake Administrator.
- G. The Administrator shall insure the review occurs within 72-hours of receipt of request for such a meeting.
- H. The assigned facilitator shall cause a copy of the outcome of the meeting to be communicated to the involved law enforcement personnel and Butler County Children Services personnel.
- I. The Prosecuting Attorney's Office and its representatives, as assigned legal counsel for BCCS, retain the ultimate decision-making authority as to the pursuit of any civil and/or criminal action in the courts regarding children who have been removed from their home by a law enforcement officer.

Approval Date: 12/4/09



Jeff Centers, Executive Director