
**ORANGE COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY
CFS OPERATIONS MANUAL**

Effective Date: March 16, 1999
Revised Date: February 19, 2009
Revised Date: May 21, 2013

Number: A-0408

Children Born to Incarcerated Mothers

Purpose To provide guidelines for response when Children and Family Services (CFS) is notified of a child born to an incarcerated mother.

Approved This policy was approved by Gary Taylor, Director of CFS, on May 21, 2013. *Signature on file.*

Most Recent Revision The following information has been removed from this P&P:

- Generating a Child Abuse Referral
- Emergency Response Investigation
- Locating placement for newborn
- Application for Petition

Background When an infant is born to an incarcerated mother who is reported to be an Orange County resident, it is necessary to verify Orange County residency and provide intervention to ensure the safety and well being of the infant.

CFS has a designated Emergency Response (ER) Senior Social Services Supervisor (SSSS) who is the contact person when a child is born to an incarcerated mother who is unable or unwilling to develop an appropriate placement plan for her child.

Definitions For purposes of this P&P, the following apply:

County of Residence: The county in which a now incarcerated mother was residing when arrested. A child born to an incarcerated mother shares the mother's county of residence regardless of where the mother was arrested, tried, convicted,

sentenced, or incarcerated.

POLICY

Verification of Residency

If CFS is contacted prior to an incarcerated mother giving birth, the designated ER SSSS will verify Orange County residency.

If CFS is contacted following birth of a child born to an incarcerated mother, the Child Abuse Registry (CAR) Senior Social Worker (SSW) will verify Orange County residency.

Resources to determine an incarcerated mother's last known address may include, but are not limited to:

- The local child welfare agency where she is incarcerated
- Police report regarding mother's arrest
- Case inquiry through California Works Information Network (CalWIN)

As applicable, the CAR SSW or ER SSSS will immediately notify the prison staff or child welfare agency that contacted CFS if it is determined that the child's mother is not an Orange County resident.

Investigation

Per CFS policy, a child abuse referral regarding a child born to an incarcerated mother will be accepted and assigned for ER investigation when all of the criteria below are met:

- The mother has given birth to the child
- Orange County residency has been established
- The mother has not arranged for the child's father, a relative, Non-Related Extended Family Member (NREFM), or licensed foster parent to care for the child

The investigation will be completed per standard procedure and applicable CFS P&Ps.

Transporting Child

When needed, CFS staff may transport a child born to an incarcerated mother when the mother enters into a Voluntary Placement Agreement (refer to CFS P&P [Voluntary Placements \[K-0901\]](#)) or the child is placed into protective custody.

CFS staff will transport the child per CFS P&P [Transportation of Children \(D-0307\)](#).

Note: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations require that a signed medical release for travel be obtained when transporting a child under 14 days old by airplane. CFS staff will obtain such authorization prior to travel.

Note: Transportation arrangements for a child with special health care needs will be made in consultation with the Special Medical Placement Unit (refer to CFS P&P [Special Medical Placements \[K-0801\]](#) for further information).

If a child born to an incarcerated mother cannot be picked up immediately upon hospital release/discharge, the assigned SSW will:

- Provide the hospital with a completed *Hospital Hold Extension Request (F063-28-238)* **and**
- Request that the child welfare agency where the child was born take the child into temporary custody until CFS can make arrangements to pick up the child

Note: Orange County is responsible for costs associated with temporary placement of the child by the local child welfare agency.

REFERENCES

Attachments and CWS/CMS Data Entry Standards

Hyperlinks are provided below to access attachments to this P&P and any CWS/CMS Data Entry Standards that are referenced.

None.

Hyperlinks

Users accessing this document by computer may create a direct connection to the following references by clicking on them.

- CFS P&P [Transportation of Children \(D-0307\)](#)
 - CFS P&P [Special Medical Placements \(K-0801\)](#)
 - CFS P&P [Voluntary Placements \(K-0901\)](#)
-

Other Sources

Other printed references include the following:

None.

FORMS

Online Forms Forms listed below may be printed out and completed, or completed online, and may be accessed by clicking on the link provided.

Form Name	Form Number
Hospital Hold Extension Request	F063-28-238

Hard Copy Forms Forms that may be completed in hard copy (including multi-copy NCR forms) are listed below. ***For reference purposes only***, links are provided to view these hard copy forms, where available.

Form Name	Form Number
None.	

CWS/CMS Forms Forms that may **only** be obtained in CWS/CMS are listed below. ***For reference purposes only***, links are provided to view these CWS/CMS forms, where available.

Form Name	Form Number
None.	

Brochures Brochures to distribute in conjunction with this procedure include:

Brochure Name	Brochure Number
None.	

LEGAL MANDATES

[Welfare and Institutions Code \(WIC\) Section 17.1](#) provides the legal mandate for determining a child's county of residence.

[All County Information Notice \(ACIN\) I-42-98](#) provides the guidelines for determining the county of legal residence of an infant born to a female inmate of a Federal, State, or county correctional institution.