

CAPTA PLAN OF SAFE CARE

Frequently Asked Questions

What is CAPTA?	CAPTA - The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act - is the key Federal legislation addressing child abuse and neglect, originally enacted in 1974 and reauthorized in 2010. CAPTA provides Federal funding to States in support of prevention, assessment, investigation, prosecution, and treatment activities. Additionally, it sets forth a minimum definition of child abuse and neglect. CAPTA was most recently amended by CARA legislation.
What is CARA?	The Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 was enacted to address the opioid health crisis in the US. It requires state child welfare systems to develop a Plan of Safe Care for infants born and identified as being affected by substance use or withdrawal symptoms or Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. The intent of this legislation is to deliver appropriate services to the entire family to ensure the safety and well-being of infants following the release from the health care provider.
How will CT implement Plans of Safe Care?	DCF is charged with developing policies and procedures for a Plan of Safe Care. While these procedures will include a requirement that health care providers involved in the delivery or care of such infants notify DCF, the legislation specifies that this notification shall not be considered a report of child abuse or neglect.
Who develops a Plan of Safe Care?	A Plan of Safe Care is meant to be a community safety net for families affected by substance use. Ideally, the plan is established during pregnancy, prior to child welfare involvement, and DCF and community providers collaboratively develop the plan.
What are the elements of a Plan of Safe Care?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical health<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Post-partum care– Support with breast feeding– Medication and pain management– Contraception and pregnancy prevention• Behavioral health<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Engagement, treatment, recovery supports and retention– Treatment for partner/other family members• Infant health and development<ul style="list-style-type: none">– High risk follow-up care, with referral to specialty care– Developmental screening and assessment, linkage to early intervention services– Early care and education program• Parenting/family support<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Coordinated case management– Home Visiting/Head Start– Housing, employment support, child care, transportation

For more information, visit the [DMHAS Women and Children's Service Webpage](#)