

SPECIALIZED CHILD WELFARE SUBJECT MATTER

Safe Sleep Environments

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Policy

The Department of Children and Families shall provide training to Social Workers, Social Work Supervisors and all other staff who visit clients' homes and engage with parents and other caregivers of children ages 0-12 months.

Cross reference: "Standards and Practice for Safe Sleep Environments"

Assessing the Safety of an Infant's Sleep Environment

The Social Worker shall, during each home or placement visit for an infant, ask to observe the infant's sleep environment.

The Social Worker shall engage caregivers of infants in problem solving regarding safe sleep barriers.

The Social Worker shall discuss any concerns with the caregiver and make recommendations for resolution. If a risk factor is identified during a visit and cannot be resolved, the Social Worker shall immediately consult with the Social Work Supervisor as well as the pediatrician for the infant and any home visiting or parents' support services in place.

Assisting with Procuring Equipment

If a caregiver is lacking safe sleeping furniture or equipment, the Social Worker, with the support of the Area Office, shall assist the family in securing such items as soon as practicable.

Documentation

The Social Worker shall document in the case record:

- safe sleeping discussions with the caregivers;
 - the infant's sleeping environment; and
 - all actions taken to resolve concerns with the infant's sleep environment.
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