

Investigative Processes in Family-Centered Child Protective Services

Competencies

Topic 115

Child Protective Services Investigation

Skill Set 115-01 Ability gather and document information to complete an intake

115-01-001

Understands dynamics that may prevent reporters from providing detailed information about a family's situation

115-01-002

Knows interview strategies to encourage and assist reporters to provide detailed, accurate information about the child(ren) and family being reported

115-01-003

Can gather and document information about the incident, prior maltreatment, child's current condition and the family's situation, to establish the agency response time

Skill Set 115-02 Ability to complete an initial assessment decision to determine agency response

115-02-001

Knows the relevant criteria to be used when making initial assessment decisions

115-02-002

Can gather sufficient information about the incident, prior maltreatment, child's current condition, the family's situation, to establish the agency response time

115-02-003

Can determine which referrals should be accepted for assessment and which should be closed at the initial assessment

115-02-004

Knows the purpose, goals and objectives of a child maltreatment investigation and the criteria to determine if an investigation is warranted

Skill Set 115-03 Ability to use a family-centered approach when conducting investigations or non-abuse/neglect assessments

115-03-001

Knows the importance of establishing rapport with family members from the first contact

115-03-002

Understands how to consider cultural factors when preparing for an investigation or assessment

115-03-003

Understands dynamics that can reduce family members' willingness to provide information about their situation to the investigating Child Protection Services (CPS) specialist or investigator

115-03-004

Understands issues related to parents' rights and how to respect those rights during investigations and assessments

115-03-005

Knows how to reduce resistance and engage family members during interviews

115-03-006

Knows how to connect families with community or agency services at the time of the assessment to address children's safety and prevent out-of-home placement

115-03-007

Can maintain a professional relationship, communicate respect and keep family members involved and invested while completing an investigation or assessment

115-03-008

Can identify community service resources to address child safety and support for the family

Skill Set 115-04 Ability to plan, coordinate, and conduct child maltreatment investigations in collaboration with community partners

115-04-001

Knows the importance of using information obtained in the report to plan an approach for the investigation

115-04-002

Knows the benefits of using a formal, interagency and interdisciplinary approach to child maltreatment investigations

115-04-003

Knows the child welfare agency's role and responsibilities when collaborating with child advocacy centers (CACs) and multi-disciplinary teams during child maltreatment investigations

115-04-004

Knows the respective roles of Kansas Department of Children and Families (DCF) and law enforcement, and when to involve law enforcement in an investigation

115-04-005

Knows how safety assessment, risk assessment and safety planning are integrated into the investigation

115-04-006

Knows strategies to ensure a social worker's or special investigator's safety during an investigation

115-04-007

Knows how to determine who should be interviewed and the types of information to be gathered from each person interviewed

115-04-008

Knows the purpose of structured protocols and forensic interviewing methods to maximize the accuracy and admissibility of evidence gathered during the investigation

115-04-009

Knows the circumstances when it is appropriate to interview children at school prior to interviewing the child's parent(s)

115-04-010

Knows how to gather, compile and record investigation data so that information may be used in a court proceeding

115-04-011

Knows how to determine the sequence, timing and location of investigation interviews

115-04-012

Can gather relevant information from family members, alleged child victims, extended family and other collateral contacts during an investigation to support or refute assigned allegations

115-04-013

Can coordinate the agency's investigation activities with other members of interdisciplinary child maltreatment teams