



CARE

Child Abuse Review and Evaluation Referral

What is a CARE Referral?

In May 2023, Child Abuse Review and Evaluation Referral (CARE) went into effect requiring the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) to make referrals to Medical Resource Centers and CARE providers. The purpose of a CARE referral is to connect children and families with a network of medical professionals to receive recommendations regarding medical treatment a child may need.

Who is involved in the CARE Referral Process?



The Kansas Protection Report Center (KPRC)

KPRC is involved in reviewing reports and assigning reports to DCF Child Protection Specialists (CPS).



Child Protection Specialist (CPS)

The CPS refers the reports with children under the age of 6, alleged to be a victim of physical abuse and/or physical neglect, to a Medical Resource Center.



Medical Resource Centers (MRC)

MRC review the referred reports and provide recommendations to the CPS regarding medical treatment.



CPS and Families

The CPS talks with families about the recommendation. If the MRC recommends medical treatment, the CPS helps connect children and families to a CARE Provider.



CARE providers

CARE providers are located across Kansas to help provide exams or treatment to children.

What is a Medical Resource Center?

The Medical Resource Center (MRC) is a center of specially trained medical providers available to review reports and make recommendations. The CPS will be in communication with you about these recommendations. If a medical exam or treatment is needed the CPS will assist you with the referral to a CARE provider or another medical professional.



What is a CARE Provider?

CARE Providers are specially trained medical providers located within Kansas communities. CARE Providers are available and equipped to provide an exam or treatment recommended by the MRC.





Data Privacy

To ensure data privacy, DCF uses IRIS (Integrated Referral and Intake System) to facilitate secure communication between DCF, Medical Resource Centers, and CARE Providers. If you have questions or concerns about IRIS, or you do not consent to your information being entered into IRIS, please discuss your concerns with the CPS. If you don't consent to have your information stored in IRIS, it will be sent to a Medical Resource Center or CARE Provider through email.

What information is shared in IRIS?

Information entered and stored in IRIS includes case details (child's name, description of allegations, medical records, photographs, etc.) and the Medical Resource Center or CARE Provider's recommendation. This information can only be seen by staff (users) of the organizations involved in sending or receiving the CARE referral and any IRIS Data Manager(s). All IRIS users must treat personal data in IRIS as private.

How is data privacy managed?

IRIS is managed by the Center for Public Partnerships and Research at the University of Kansas. The IRIS tool meets applicable law to reasonably maintain the privacy and security of personal information. Safety measures include regular audits, mandatory IRIS staff training, policies requiring appropriate handling of secure information, encrypting data while at rest and during transmission, housing data on HIPAA-compliant cloud storage solution, and single-user logins.

Contact Information:



CPS SPECIALIST NAME



PHONE



OFFICE LOCATION

