



## ..CONNECTIONS NEWS..

*for the week of August 15 - 22, 2008*

*Developing a more caseworker centric system*

**CONNECTIONS Intranet site:** <http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/>

### **FEATURED IN THIS EDITION**

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### ***"Info to Know" for Caseworkers***



#### ***Upcoming Teleconference on Changes to Safety and Risk Assessments to Reduce Repeat Maltreatment***

**\*\*** Please note that this piece was also in the last edition.

**When:** August 27, 2008

**Time:** 10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

**Who Should Attend:** Child welfare and CPS caseworkers, casework supervisors and managers at local district agencies and voluntary agencies. OCFS regional office staff are also encouraged to attend.

**Description of the teleconference:** Reducing repeat maltreatment among children and families in New York State is a goal that OCFS shares with local districts and foster care and preventive service agencies. As part of that effort OCFS has made improvements to the Safety Assessment and Risk Assessment Protocols. The changes will be supported in the CONNECTIONS system, effective October 10, 2008.

The purpose of this teleconference is to:

- Introduce changes in the safety assessment and the risk assessment profile
- Explain why and how these changes were made
- Familiarize participants with how the changes apply to casework practice, and
- Preview how CONNECTIONS supports the changes.

**Important Info:** Participation in this teleconference will meet two hours of the annual CPS in-service training requirement. Please make sure you record your attendance on the training roster at your viewing site.

**Registration Instructions:** Please contact your Staff Development Coordinator (SDC) or Training Coordinator for the location of the downlink site in your county or facility. To ensure this program will be shown at your site, specify your intent to attend with your SDC or Training Coordinator. For the Albany area OCFS Central Office Staff, contact Marti Murphy (518-474-2424) to view at 52 Washington Street in Rensselaer.

To view a copy of the training announcement, go to the either the Home or Training page of the CONNECTIONS intranet site: <http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/>.



### ***CONNECTIONS Records Retention Notification***

***Please note that this notification pertains to local districts ONLY.***

The next Records Retention Purge Program is scheduled to begin ***Monday evening, September 8, 2008***. This program will purge cases/stages listed in the **June 6, 2008** "To Be Expunged" reports. Please note that if you have not already reviewed and made the necessary demographic changes, via Local Data Maintenance, to the cases/stages identified in the June "To Be Expunged" report you have until close of business on ***Sunday, September 7th*** to do so. A communication was sent to local district Records Retention Report recipients and Directors of Service on August 12<sup>th</sup>. For more information click on the following link: <http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/imp/Records%20Retention%20Notification%208-2008.pdf>.



## A **NEW** CONNECTIONS Tip Sheet - Permanency Hearing Report Procedure

The Permanency Law took effect on December 21, 2005. It requires, in part, that workers create and file Permanency Hearing Reports with the court prior to children's permanency hearings and send these reports to a number of other required parties. These reports serve as the means to notify the court and those parties of a family's progress, and to provide them with specific up-to-date information about the subject child(ren). This tip sheet provides you with procedural steps that you can use as a checklist to efficiently complete accurate Permanency Hearing Reports. For your reference, a copy of the tip sheet is posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet on the Step-by-Step/Job Aids/Tips page. To access a copy of the tip sheet just click on this link: <http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/jobaides/jobaides.asp>.

### *"Info to Know" for Technical Staff*



## **UPDATE** - Upgrade to Internet Explorer Version 7 CIO OFT/CNS Bulletin: 08-CNS-09 CHANGE IN IE7 UPGRADE DATE FOR COUNTY AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES

NUMBER: 08-CNS-08

TITLE: CHANGE IN IE7 UPGRADE DATE FOR COUNTY AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES

DATE ISSUED: August 13, 2008

Though this upgrade (to Internet Explorer Version 7 on machines running Windows XP) was scheduled to begin on August 29, 2008, **it will be postponed until October 3, 2008** while work is done to resolve some county and agency application issues identified during testing. Installation will occur during regular update periods and *no user action is required*. This date change affects county and voluntary agencies only; IE7 upgrades have been completed for state agencies. This upgrade will EXCLUDE customer machines running Windows 2000, because Internet Explorer Version 7 does not run on Windows 2000 machines. For a copy of the notification click on this link: <http://sdc.oft.state.nyenet/crcc/crc/>.

### **For Assistance**

#### *For local districts:*

Questions regarding this notification should be directed to your CIO/OFT **Customer Relations Manager** who can be reached at: (518) 402-2537, or toll-free 1-866-789-4OFT (4638).

Requests for technical assistance with web-based application access problems should be directed to the **CNS Coordination Center** at 1-800-603-0877.

*For voluntary agencies:*

Questions regarding this notification should be directed to either mailbox:

Internal: [ocfs.sm.deployment](mailto:ocfs.sm.deployment)

External: [ocfs.sm.deployment@ocfs.state.ny.us](mailto:ocfs.sm.deployment@ocfs.state.ny.us)

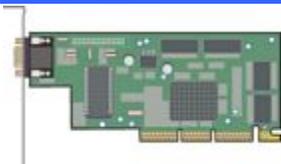
## *“General Info to Know”*



### ***New Postings to the CONNECTIONS Intranet***

The following document(s) were recently posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet website:

- The CONNECTIONS NEWS
- CONNECTIONS Records Retention Notification: Program Purge Schedule  
*(This notification pertains to local districts ONLY.)*



### ***Weekly System Maintenance***

Due to regularly scheduled system maintenance, the CONNECTIONS application will not be available on...

- [Wednesday, 8/20/08](#) from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM
- [Friday, 8/22/08](#) from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM



Office of  
Children & Family  
Services

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