



## ..CONNECTIONS NEWS..

*for the week of March 13 - 20, 2009*

*Developing a more caseworker centric system*

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

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



#### ***AFCARS Update***

The data for the Children Served With Missing Clinical Diagnosis reports have been refreshed as of March 4th.

Children served in foster care during the October 1st through March 31st period will be included in the next AFCARS submission. Please make every effort to ensure that

children receive a Clinical Diagnosis and the results are entered into CONNECTIONS by mid-April.

## **INF** **\*\*NEW\*\* 09-OCFS-INF-02 - Institutional Abuse** **Provisions: Chapter 323 of the Laws of 2008**

The Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) has just issued the following new Informational Letter (INF): 09-OCFS-INF-02 Institutional Abuse Provisions: Chapter 323 of the Laws of 2008.

The purpose of this INF is to advise local departments of social services and voluntary authorized agencies of the provisions contained in Chapter 323 of the Laws of 2008 and the amended Part 433 regulations that reflect the new institutional abuse (IAB) provisions. Most prominent in Chapter 323 and the new regulations, which were filed on an emergency basis on January 16, 2009, are new definitions of an abused or neglected child in residential care. This INF highlights some of the statutory and regulatory changes, including the new definitions, time frames and protocols regarding submission of reports to the New York Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment (SCR) involving children receiving care in residential facilities.

You can access this INF ([http://ocfs.state.nyenet/policies/external/OCFS\\_2009/INFs/09-OCFS-INF-02%20Institutional%20Abuse%20Provisions.pdf](http://ocfs.state.nyenet/policies/external/OCFS_2009/INFs/09-OCFS-INF-02%20Institutional%20Abuse%20Provisions.pdf)) and other OCFS policies on the OCFS intranet website with this link: <http://ocfs.state.nyenet/policies/external/>

## **ADM** **Two Administrative Directives Were Recently Released**

- 09-OCFS-ADM-05 New Statutes Affecting Kinship Care: Chapters 404 and 519 of the Laws of 2008
- 09-OCFS-ADM-06 Domestic Violence Services for Undocumented Persons

This piece was in the last edition of the *CONNECTIONS NEWS*.

Two new ADMs have been posted to the OCFS intranet site. They are:

- 09-OCFS-ADM-05 New Statutes Affecting Kinship Care: Chapters 404 and 519 of the Laws of 2008  
[http://ocfs.state.nyenet/policies/external/OCFS\\_2009/ADMs/09-OCFS-ADM-05%20New%20Statutes%20Affecting%20Kinship%20Care%20Chapters%20404%20and%20519%20of%20the%20Laws%20of%202008.pdf](http://ocfs.state.nyenet/policies/external/OCFS_2009/ADMs/09-OCFS-ADM-05%20New%20Statutes%20Affecting%20Kinship%20Care%20Chapters%20404%20and%20519%20of%20the%20Laws%20of%202008.pdf)
- 09-OCFS-ADM-06 Domestic Violence Services for Undocumented Persons  
[http://ocfs.state.nyenet/policies/external/OCFS\\_2009/ADMs/09-OCFS-ADM-06%20Domestic%20Violence%20Services%20for%20Undocumented%20Persons.pdf](http://ocfs.state.nyenet/policies/external/OCFS_2009/ADMs/09-OCFS-ADM-06%20Domestic%20Violence%20Services%20for%20Undocumented%20Persons.pdf)

## ? *Family Assessment Response (FAR) Questions & Answers*

This piece was in the last edition of the *CONNECTIONS NEWS*.

A collection of questions and answers related to Family Assessment Response (FAR) is available on the CONNECTIONS intranet site at the following link: [http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/faq/FAR%20QA%20\(2%2027\)%20\(2\).pdf](http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/faq/FAR%20QA%20(2%2027)%20(2).pdf).

## *General “Info to Know”*



### *The Records Retention Report Run Scheduled for March 23<sup>rd</sup> Is Postponed*

***\*\*Please note that this piece pertains to local districts only.***

This piece was in the last edition of the *CONNECTIONS NEWS*.

Please note that the Records Retention run that was scheduled for March 23<sup>rd</sup> will be postponed. We do not have another run date as yet but will keep you posted when a date is confirmed. A communication, relating this information, was forwarded to local district Directors of Service as well as Records Retention report recipients.



### ***\*\*UPDATE\*\* on the Records Retention Report Recipient Request***

***\*\*Please note that this piece pertains to local districts only.***

This piece was in the last edition of the *CONNECTIONS NEWS*.

On February 23<sup>rd</sup> we sent a communication to Directors of Service and local district Record Retention report recipients letting them know that we are in the process of updating the distribution list of individuals who receive the Records Retention report at the local level. To this end, we identified the names of individuals in each district to whom the report is currently sent. We asked that the list of individuals be reviewed and a reply to the email was requested by Friday, March 6th, **only** if changes (delete or add names) to the list were necessary. To date we have received responses from about half of the local districts so we are extending the response date to Friday, March 13th. If your district did not receive the email please contact either Donna Cramer ([Donna.Cramer@ocfs.stste.ny.us](mailto:Donna.Cramer@ocfs.stste.ny.us)) or Jeannie Hoag ([Jeannie.Hoag@ocfs.state.ny.us](mailto:Jeannie.Hoag@ocfs.state.ny.us)).



## General Information System (09-005)

### CCRS, WMS Changes to Support Permanent Guardian Legislation

\*\* The information below pertains to local districts only.

**TO:** Directors of Services

**FROM:** Paul Gavry

**SUGGESTED DISTRIBUTION:** Directors of Services, Services Caseworkers and Supervisors, Data Entry Operators

**SUBJECT:** CCRS, WMS Changes to Support Permanent Guardian Legislation

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** March 9, 2009

**CONTACT:** OCFS-IT Customer Support at 1-800-342-3727

The purpose of this General Information System (GIS) message is to provide local departments of social services (LDSS) with information regarding CCRS, WMS changes to support Permanent Guardian legislation.

**09-OCFS-ADM-05: New Statutes Affecting Kinship Care: Chapters 404 and 519 of the Laws of 2008** advised social services districts and voluntary authorized agencies about two new laws that relate to permanency and the appointment and legal rights of guardians and custodians. This ADM is available at: <http://ocfs.state.nyenet/policies/external/>

The following system changes have developed in support of these laws. CCRS changes will be implemented effective Monday, **March 9, 2009**. WMS changes will be implemented effective Monday, **March 16, 2009**.

#### **CCRS (effective 3/9/09)**

- A new value: **83 Permanent Guardianship** has been added to Legal Activities table: *L300 Modifier B or C L500 Modifier B -- Dispositions*
  - Disposition 83 does not require Date Certain entry in MOD D.
- A new value/closing reason: **591 Discharged to Permanent Guardian** has been added to Movements *Table 6- M990 and M999 Reason for Discharge/Closing*. Closing Reason 591 is allowed only when child status is In Care/04, Absent/06 or Trial Discharge/07.

#### **WMS (effective 3/16/09)**

- A new value/closing reason: **591 Discharged to Permanent Guardian** has been added to table: *37 DENIAL/CLOSING REASON CODES*
  - Closing reason **591** will auto close CCRS track with system generated M999.

The CCRS and WMS Services coding guides have been updated to reflect these changes and are available in Public Folders at the following paths:

**WMS Services Coding Guide:**

*All Public Folders/dfa.state.ny.us/OCFS/TSU/ \*\*\*Services systems Reference Documents/ WMS Services reference documents*

**CCRS Services Coding Guide:**

*All Public Folders/dfa.state.ny.us/OCFS/TSU/ \*\*\*Services systems Reference Documents/CCRS reference documents*

For systems questions, please contact OCFS-IT Customer Support at 1-800-342-3727.

All GIS messages are available in Public Folders at the following path:

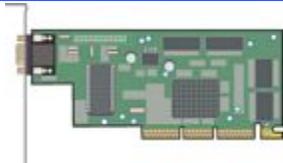
*All Public Folders/dfa.state.ny.us/OCFS/TSU/ \*\*\*Services Systems Reference Documents/ GIS (system change notices)*



***NEW Postings to the CONNECTIONS Intranet***

The following documents were recently posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet website:

- **...CONNECTIONS NEWS...**  
<http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/>



***Weekly System Maintenance***

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

- **Wednesday, 3/18/09** from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM
- **Friday, 3/20/09** from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM



Office of  
Children & Family  
Services  
Gladys Carrión, Esq.  
Commissioner