



CONNECTIONS Bulletin

Choosing the Correct Role for a Child in an Indicated CPS Investigation

CPS caseworkers, with support from their supervisors, are responsible for assigning the correct role to each child in a report. When any allegation is substantiated, it is essential that the correct role, either confirmed abused or confirmed maltreated, is assigned to each child before the investigation is concluded and closed in CONNECTIONS.

Most commonly, this occurs when a report is registered by the SCR with an allegation of abuse, then, after the investigation, the allegation of abuse is unsubstantiated but at least one other non-abuse allegation is substantiated for that child, and they are now considered to be maltreated.

When closing a CPS investigation, it is the responsibility of the CPS caseworker and their supervisor to make a decision as to whether that child was abused or maltreated based on the definition of abuse and maltreatment as applied to the facts of the case.

Why is this Important?

The law changed with the SCR Reform legislation so that the assigned role of the child is critically important to compliance with the law. The law now requires that a report with only maltreated children becomes automatically designated as not Relevant and Reasonably Related, "Not R & R," eight (8) years after the report was indicated.

"Not R & R" means the indicated report is not relevant and reasonably related to employment, licensure or certification. Therefore, the indicated report cannot be disclosed during a background check conducted under section 424-a of the Social Services Law.

As the law makes clear, all indicated maltreatment reports will automatically be changed to "Not R & R" eight (8) years after the initial report was indicated by CPS. The law applies to maltreatment reports only. All indicated reports remain retained until the 28th birthday of the youngest child listed in the report.

Subjects cannot receive the benefit of this law if the child's role is improperly assigned. Therefore, it is critical CPS caseworkers and their supervisors assign the correct role to each child named in the report before the investigation is closed. The substantiated allegations must match the child's role.

How to Change an Abused/Maltreated Child's Role in CONNECTIONS

After you have made a determination (SUB/UNS) for all allegations in the allegations window, go to the person list for the child. When you click the Role drop-down, you will have the option to choose either Confirmed Abused or Confirmed Maltreated.

Resources:

- The Investigation Conclusion narrative screen in CONNECTIONS provides detailed definitions of abuse and maltreatment as defined by the Social Services Law (SSL 412).
The Child Protective Services Program Manual provides guidance.
Your OCFS Regional Office Program staff can assist with abuse/maltreatment questions.
Your OCFS CONNECTIONS Implementation staff can provide technical assistance with CONNECTIONS.