Family Assessment Response (FAR) – Columbia County, NY

Report taken at NY SCR and sent to your county

Report *initially* eligible for FAR track
FAR is the **preferred response**
unless the report is required by SSL 427-a to be investigated or ineligible according to local protocol.

Allegations involving. . .
- Maltreatment
- Lack of supervision, Inadequate Guardianship
- Inappropriate physical discipline, unexplained bruises
- Educational neglect
- Family conflict
- Alleged domestic violence where safety interventions & neglect abuse petitions are not necessary

Report ineligible for FAR track
Allegations involving. . .
- A report required by SSL 427-a to be investigated (sexual abuse, assault, murder, manslaughter, failure to thrive, abandonment)
- Children taken into protective custody
- Licensed facilities (day care, foster homes)
- Reports where child's role is AB
- Cross county reports, subsequent reports on open investigations, and open CPS monitored cases
- Domestic violence where CPS safety interventions and neglect/abuse petitions are going to be necessary
- In-home criminal activity related to substances and abuse/neglect petitions will be necessary
- Withholding medical care of severe diminishment of parenting skills where neglect/abuse petitions are going to be necessary

Request permission for initial contact
via phone call or face-to-face request

Safety assessment begun within 24 hours & completed within 7 days

Children considered SAFE & Case continues in FAR track

Children considered UNSAFE
CPS Sup. to reassign

Traditional Investigation occurs

CPS designates report as FAR in Connections within 7 days, which informs SCR of FAR assignment

SCR classifies report as FAR & keeps record for 10 years

Written notice to each parent or guardian with legal responsibility for child(ren) *within 7 days*

Notice explains:
FAR track; intent of CPS to meet family's needs without traditional CPS investigation; and worker is mandated reporter

New safety concern arises & FAR worker calls in new report to hotline -
CPS Sup. to reassign

Family-Led Assessment

Look with family at their strengths, wants, concerns and needs & support family stabilization
Assessment tool: FAST (to be completed within 30 days & updated when substantive changes made)

Plan and provide services/resources that are responsive to the needs of the family (use service plan form)

Evaluate family's progress jointly with family

FAR Closure *within 60 days*

Case Closed with Agency

Receiving
Community-Based Services

Case open for
Preventive Services