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

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

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

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

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

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