

CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES
STANDARDS FOR EFFECTIVE PRACTICE

STANDARDS FOR INTAKE / ASSESSMENT / INVESTIGATION

2.8 INTER-COUNTY INTAKE ASSESSMENTS

Council on Accreditation Standard

The Council on Accreditation Standard G8.1 (Screening and Intake) links to and supports Standard 2.8 *Inter-County Intake Assessments*.

Administrative Code

The Ohio Administrative Code Rule 5101:2-34-32 (PCSA Requirements for Assessments and Investigations) addresses Standard 2.8 *Inter-County Intake Assessments*.

I. Philosophy

All CFSAs share responsibility in the protection of children at risk of abuse/neglect. Public CFSAs cooperate and share resources to effectively and efficiently serve families, maximizing limited resources. In this spirit, each public CFSAs accepts the notice for an Inter-County Investigative Assessment by other public CFSAs.

II. Outcome

Inter-County Intake Assessment requests are completed in a timely and cooperative manner to insure the safety and well being of Ohio's children.

III. Evaluation

FACSIS events, CPOE and the Federal Health and Human Services outcomes may be considered when evaluating this standard. In addition, the public CFSA may consider the following:

- how inter-county intake assessments are completed with respect to CPOE Indicator 1: Investigations completed within 30 and 45 days;
- how the inter-county intake assessments are completed with respect to CPOE Indicator 1B: Emergency incident assessments initiated within 1 hour of acceptance of report;
- the number of inter-county assessments completed at the request of other county public CFSAs;
- the percentage of inter-county assessments, conducted at the request of another county public CFSA, that are completed within 30 and 45 days;
- the accuracy and completeness of the information collected during the assessments conducted at the request of another county public CFSA;
- the number of requests placed to other counties for inter-county intake assessments;
- the percentage of requested inter-county assessments that are completed within 30 and 45 days.

IV. Standards for Implementation

- 1) The requesting public CFSA should specify the response time based on the risk to the child.

- 2) The lead public CFSA should contact the receiving public CFSA with a request to conduct an inter-county assessment when the party to be interviewed is in jurisdiction of the receiving public CFSA.
 - a. the lead public CFSA shall make the request for an inter-county assessment no later than five working days from receipt of the report;
 - b. the receiving public CFSA shall complete the interview and risk assessment elements, if applicable, and report back to the lead public CFSA within fifteen working days of receipt of the request; and
 - c. when necessary, the receiving public CFSA will refer principles in their county to community services.
- 3) The receiving public CFSA must accept responsibility to conduct assessment activities based upon the lead public CFSA's request.
- 4) The phone request shall be followed by a written request and should include, but not be limited to, the following documentation:
 - a. the referral;
 - b. any relevant information to conduct the assessment;
 - c. the time frames by which the assessment must be completed in order for the lead county to be in compliance with Ohio Administrative Code; and any documentation on previous assessments conducted by the agency relevant to the current request.
- 5) When it is necessary to involve law enforcement, it is the lead public CFSA's responsibility to insure that the assessment is referred to the law enforcement of jurisdiction.
- 6) When an inter-county investigative assessment request is made concerning a residential treatment facility, the receiving public CFSA should conduct the interview, document the findings, and forward it to the lead agency within fifteen days. Only the lead public CFSA should share case information or discuss the findings.
- 7) In the event the child needs to be removed during the investigative assessment, it should be the responsibility of the lead public CFSA to find a placement for the child.
- 8) Instead of requesting an inter-county intake assessment, a public CFSA may cross into another county to conduct the interview(s). Under this circumstance, the lead public CFSA should contact the public CFSA located in that county to inform the public CFSA of their intent and to gather any additional information the county may have. The assigned staff should document having made the contact in the case notes.

V. Financial Implications

The costs for Standard 2.8, *Inter-County Investigative Assessments* are included in Standard 2.4, *Investigative Assessments and Interviews*.