

CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES  
STANDARDS FOR EFFECTIVE PRACTICE

**STANDARDS FOR STAFF SAFETY**

**9.8 STAFF FACILITY SAFETY**

**Council on Accreditation Standards**

The Council on Accreditation Standards G5 (Quality of the Service Environment); G5.1 (Environmental Quality); G5.5 (Functional Safety); and G5.6 (Facility Safety and Security) link to and support Standard 9.8 *Staff Facility Safety*.

**Administrative Code**

The Ohio Administrative Code Rule 5101:2-34-71 (The Child Abuse and Neglect County Plan of Cooperation) addresses Standard 9.8 *Staff Facility Safety*.

**I. Philosophy**

Addressing building and office staff safety should be paramount to the Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) and is critical to staffs' success in carrying out the CFSA mission. The CFSA has an obligation to its staff to provide secure facilities where staff feel safe and comfortable in the work environment, and should implement mechanisms to guide safety practices on-site. The building facilities and office safety protocols should be regularly reviewed to assure that they remain current and responsive to changing times and the changing needs of staff.

**II. Outcome**

The CFSA facility is secure and safe.

**III. Evaluation**

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

- the extent to which staff articulate feeling safe and secure in the office and when out in the field;
- the extent to which the standards are addressed herein.

**IV. Standards for Implementation**

The CFSA should address staff safety in the agency's facilities through the development and implementation of a set of policies and procedures for building safety. To develop these policies and procedures, the agency can reference one or more of the following:

- a. local police and fire departments, county engineer, bomb squad;
- b. Weinger, Susan; Security Risk: Preventing Client Violence Against Social Workers, NASW Press. Washington D.C.; 2001; and/or
- c. Worker Safety for Human Services Organizations; American Human Association; National Resource Center on Child Abuse and Neglect; 1997.

Agencies throughout the state have Worker Building Safety Policies and Procedures. Contact PCSAO for a list of counties who may provide copies for local use.

**V. Financial Implications**

There will be costs associated with Staff Facility Safety depending on the type of, and extent to which, the agency invests in structural enhancements and facility safety equipment.