



MO Children's Division Medical Responses: SAFE-CARE Referrals and Shaken Baby Protocol".

Mercy Hospital 3rd Annual Child Abuse
Mini-Conference
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SAFE-CARE Referrals

- House Bill 1877 was passed in August 2016 and requires CD to refer all victim children *under* the age of four for exams by a SAFE CARE provider or a review of the case information by a SAFE-CARE provider
 - Only required for hotlines that are coded as “investigations”
 - A referral is not needed if the child has been or will be seen at the CAC
- The SAFE-CARE provider will review the information and provide CD with feedback and/or recommendations for additional medical treatment

SAFE-CARE Referral Process

CD investigator submits referral ([CD-231](#)) to Child Abuse Resource Center Provider (Children's Mercy Hospital, St. Louis Children's Hospital, and Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital)

Child Abuse Resource Center provider reviews referral within 24 hours and provides CD investigator with recommendation for next steps.

No further SAFE-CARE medical evaluation required, based on referral information.

Child may require medical attention outside of the SAFE-CARE provider network.

Medical evaluation by a non SAFE-CARE provider already obtained

Case review by SAFE-CARE provider

Child is in need of medical evaluation by a non SAFE-CARE provider

Case review by SAFE-CARE provider

Child is in need of medical evaluation by a SAFE-CARE provider

Child is in need of medical evaluation by a board certified child abuse pediatrician

Required Referral to the Juvenile Court

- House Bill 1877 requires CD to send a referral to the juvenile office if a SAFE-CARE provider diagnoses a child with physical abuse
 - This referral will include case information, supporting documentation, and CD's recommendations
 - CD can recommend for the juvenile office to remove the child or to take no action

31st Circuit CD “Shaken Baby” Policy

- Created with and approved by SAFE-CARE providers to ensure our most vulnerable victims always receive the recommended medical care
- CD should refer all children *under* the age of two who have allegedly been shaken within the past two months to the CAC or ER if they are displaying certain symptoms or the CAC is closed.
 - We can not force parents or ER physicians to follow our recommendations
 - CD can request for the local ER physician to contact the on-call Child Abuse Pediatricians in KC or STL for a consultation before discharging the patient

MDT Collaboration

- CD recognizes the importance of each multi-disciplinary team member's role in child abuse investigations and ensuring a child's safety
 - Medical and SAFE-CARE providers are particularly vital in the pursuit of child abuse and neglect prevention and intervention
- CD has an on-call worker available 24/7 for questions, consults, or concerns
- Interested in becoming a SAFE-CARE provider?
 - Contact Rebecca Bax, MO Kid's First Program Specialist at (573) 632-4600 or rebecca@missourikidsfirst.org or visit <https://www.missourikidsfirst.org/>
- Questions/comments??