



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE
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Nancy L. Hardy
Deputy Secretary for
Children, Youth and
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March 15, 2006

Dear Colleague:

Enclosed you will find the Office of Children, Youth and Families Bulletin Number 3490-06-01 entitled Safety Assessment and Planning Process. Please be aware that even though the effective date of this bulletin is immediately, the Office of Children, Youth and Families recognizes that county children and youth agencies will need time to review, understand and be trained on the revised safety assessment process. Therefore, the Regional Offices of Children, Youth and Families will be allowing counties flexibility in the length of time to actually implement the revised process. Counties will be given up to one year from the issue date of the bulletin to fully implement the revised safety assessment process outlined in the attached bulletin and thus compliance issues will not be cited during the year time frame. However, during the one year implementation time frame counties must continue to assure that ALL children residing in the home are safe and free from immediate physical/and or emotional harm, and must continue to assess their safety in their current living situation.

The revised Safety Assessment and Planning Process Bulletin has been a collaborative process over the past two years with members of the State's Risk Assessment Taskforce that included: County Children and Youth Administrators, PA Council of Children, Youth and Family Services, Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries Family Design Resources, the University of Pittsburgh PA Child Welfare Training Program, the PA Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and the PA Coalition Against Rape. We are pleased that the outcome of those partnerships have resulted in a process that will allow for a more systematic and consistent statewide process of conducting safety assessments and safety planning in order to protect children in Pennsylvania.

If you have any question, please contact Terry L. Clark at teclark@state.pa.us or (717) 214-9545.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy L. Hardy".

Nancy L. Hardy