

SPECIALIZED CHILD WELFARE SUBJECT MATTER

Trauma Informed Care

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Policy

The Department of Children and Families shall meet the needs of children and families with services that are based on the Strengthening Families Practice Model and that incorporate a trauma-informed approach to care and services.

See also: "Trauma-Informed Care Practice Guide."

Trauma Screening and Assessment

Children with trauma exposure and traumatic stress reactions shall be given a thorough clinical trauma assessment to guide treatment services and best care practices.

Guidelines for Working with Traumatized Children and Families

DCF staff shall be prepared to listen, talk about and report traumatic events in a child's or family's life experiences.

DCF staff shall strive to understand the impact of a birth parent's or other caregiver's trauma history and to understand how this history impacts the parent's or caregiver's capacity to promote protective factors for the child including nurturing, attachment, knowledge of child development, problem solving, social supports and concrete resources to meet basic needs.

DCF staff shall understand their roles in bridging and building supports for trauma-affected children and their caregivers.

MDE Trauma Screening

Children removed and placed in out-of-home care shall receive a trauma-informed multidisciplinary evaluation (MDE) by a DCF-contracted provider that includes the Connecticut Trauma Screen (CTS) for children ages seven and older.

In addition, for all children, the DCF Social Worker shall complete "Section 1 - Part C: Social History" of the DCF-746, "Multidisciplinary Evaluation (MDE) Report," which includes questions designed to identify trauma history.

The Social Worker and Supervisor shall review the MDE recommendations for addressing the trauma-related needs of the child and include the findings and recommendations in the written case plan assessment, goals and objectives.
