

# Alternative Response

Traditional child protective services focus on investigations of possible maltreatment to determine if children have been or are at risk of being harmed, and are generally governed by legal requirements. Alternative responses allow child welfare agencies to intervene with families in more supportive ways, often by focusing on assessing families' strengths and needs and providing services. In states that offer alternative responses, they are generally provided in cases of lower risk. Investigations are still conducted for allegations of severe physical abuse and neglect and for sexual abuse. Beginning in July 2010, Wisconsin started to pilot Alternative Response in 5 of its 72 counties.

In eWiSACWIS, new screening values have been added to the worker and supervisor screening decision fields on the Decision tab of the Access Report. These values are only available for selection by Alternative Response pilot counties; however the values are also viewable for non-pilot counties. The new screening values are:

- Screen In – ‘CA/N Primary - Alternative Response’
- Screen Out – ‘Ref to Comm. Services’

The screening values are determined based on the type of CPS Access Report. For example, ‘Screen In – CA/N Primary – Alternative Response’ will only appear under the screening reasons if the report is a Primary type of report. The type of report is determined by the ‘Relationship to Victim’ value(s) on the Allegation tab of the Access Report [the Relationship to Victim is selected on the Allegation (Access Report) page, accessed via the Edit hyperlink].

**eWiSACWIS** TM Print Spell Check Help

**Access Information**  
Report Name: Madeup, Case Worker: Miracola, Rick J. Access Report Type: CPS Report  
Date and Time Report was Received: 10/20/2010 10:10 AM PM R/T: Within 5 business days ID: 8488472

**Allegations**

Alleged Victim	AM Relationship to Victim	A/N Code	Dt or Approx Dt of Alleged Mal	Resided in OHC	Fatality		
Madeup, Child	Biological Parent(s)	Sexual Abuse Describe	10/18/2010	N	N	Edit	Delete
Madeup, Child	Biological Parent(s)	Neglect Describe	10/19/2010	N	N	Edit	Delete

**Allegation Details**  
CPS Report Type: Primary  
 Incident Location Same as Report Name C/O:   
Number:  Address:  Apt:  WI City:

Options:  Go Save Close

# Alternative Response

## Relationship values which determine Access Report Screen In values

**Policy**  
NOTE: Please select the appropriate relationship(s) of all alleged maltreaters for this allegation of abuse or neglect. For example, if two biological parents and a grandparent living in the home are alleged to have maltreated the child, select 'Biological Parent(s)' and 'Relative(s)/Primary Care Provider(s)'.

**Alleged Maltreater(s) Relation to Victim**

Primary		Secondary		Non-Caregiver	
Select	Description	Select	Description	Select	Description
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adoptive Parent(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alleged maltreater(s) not verified	<input type="checkbox"/>	Family Friend(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Biological Parent(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Certified family home provider(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neighbor(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Child(ren) in family Not Mature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Child care provider(s) in home of child	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other child(ren) Not Mature
<input type="checkbox"/>	Child(ren) in foster home Not Mature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Child(ren) in other lic. care Not Mature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other non-caregiver(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Foster Parent/Non-Relative(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Licensed day care center employee(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Peer Maltreater(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Foster Parent/Relative(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-certified family home provider(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stranger(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual(s) who share a Foster Home	<input type="checkbox"/>	Relative/Non-Care Provider(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Partner/Friend of parent sharing dwell	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staff at a Juvenile correction facility		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Relative/Court-Ordered Care Provider(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staff at RCC/other facility		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Relative/Primary Care Provider(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Teacher/Other school employee(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sibling(s), Step Sibling(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Youth org. staff or volunteer leader(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Step Parent(s)				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown				

**Continue** **Close**

After screening in an Access Report as 'CA/N Primary - Alternative Response,' pilot only counties will then choose the type of Assessment they will complete (either 'Traditional' or Alternative') from the Assessment Type drop-down field at the top of the Initial Assessment – Primary page.

**Initial Assessment-Primary -- Webpage Dialog**

**eWiSACWIS** TM Print Spell Check Help

**Case Information**  
Case Name: Makeup, Case Case ID: 8264961 Referral Date: 10/20/2010 Assessment Type: **Alternative**  IA Completed

**Part. Info** **Presenting Issues** **ChildFnctng** **AdultFnctng** **ParentalPractices** **Risk and Safety** **Summary**

Tabs on the page will display based on the Assessment Type that is selected. In addition, the tabs will be modified to capture necessary information that is included on the new Alternative Response template.

# Alternative Response

The example below shows a change from a Traditional Response to an Alternative Response:

## Traditional View

The screenshot displays the eWiSACWIS web application interface. At the top, there is a header bar with the logo 'eWiSACWIS' on the left and navigation icons (TM, Print, Spell Check, Help) on the right. Below the header, a 'Case Information' section contains the following data: Case Name: Madeup, Case; Case ID: 8264961; Referral Date: 10/20/2010; Assessment Type: Traditional (indicated by a red arrow); and a checkbox for 'IA Completed'. A horizontal menu below this section includes tabs for 'Part. Info', 'Maltreatment', 'ChildFncng', 'AdultFncng', 'ParentalPractices', 'Risk and Safety', and 'Summary'. The main content area is divided into two sections: 'Child Information' and 'Parent Information'. Each section has a table with columns for 'Child Name' and 'DOB' (or 'Parental Role Name' and 'DOB') and an 'Add/Edit' button. At the bottom of the page, there is an 'Options:' dropdown menu with a 'Go' button, and 'Save' and 'Close' buttons.

# Alternative Response

## Alternative View

The Maltreatment and the Risk & Safety tabs do not appear. In addition, you can see that the rating factors have been removed. In place of these changes, you see a new tab called 'Presenting Issue' with an associated 'Presenting CPS Issue' group box and associated narrative field. This is the location to: Describe the presenting CPS issue, family strengths and needs; describe the issues occurring in the family that have brought them to the attention of CPS; and describe both strengths and needs identified in the family.

The screenshot shows the 'Initial Assessment-Primary -- Webpage Dialog' window for 'eWiSACWIS'. The 'Case Information' section displays: Case Name: Madeup, Case; Case ID: 8264961; Referral Date: 10/20/2010; Assessment Type: Alternative; and IA Completed checkbox. The 'Presenting Issues' tab is active, showing a 'Safety Assessment' section with two questions: 'One or both parents/caregivers intend(ed) to seriously hurt the child.' and 'Living arrangements seriously endanger the child's physical health.' Both have 'Yes' selected. Below is the 'Presenting CPS Issue' section with a text area containing 'qwerty'. A red arrow points to the 'Presenting Issues' tab. At the bottom right are 'Save' and 'Close' buttons.

# Alternative Response

**Initial Assessment-Primary -- Webpage Dialog**

**eWISACWIS** TM Print Spell Check Help

**Case Information**

Case Name: Makeup, Case Case ID: 8264961 Referral Date: 10/20/2010 Assessment Type: **Alternative**  IA Completed

**Part. Info** **Presenting Issues** **ChildFunctng** **AdultFunctng** **ParentalPractices** **Risk and Safety** **Summary**

**Safety Assessment**

The child is profoundly fearful of the home situation or people within the home. [Details](#)  Yes  No

**Child Functioning**

Child Name: Makeup, Child Rating: **Rating**

Describe the child's general functioning and effects of any maltreatment.

Row 1 of 1

**Anchors for Child Functioning**

**Child Functioning**

**Save** **Close**

Part. Info. 1<sup>st</sup> tab, displays are the same for both Alternative and Traditional views.

ChildFunctng tab: 3<sup>rd</sup> tab, displays are the same for both Alternative and Traditional views.

AdultFunctng tab: 4<sup>th</sup> tab, displays are the same for both Alternative and Traditional views.

ParentalPractices tab: 5<sup>th</sup> tab, displays are the same for both Alternative and Traditional views.

Risk and Safety tab: 6<sup>th</sup> tab, displays only for the Traditional view.

## Alternative Response

Summary tab: 7<sup>th</sup> tab: This tab displays for both Alternative and Traditional views. For instance, if any narrative was entered into the Family Support Network field, when switching from a Traditional to an Alternative Response Assessment the narrative will be saved and moved to the end of the Presenting Information narrative on the Presenting Issue tab. The Family Support Network group box on the Summary tab will then be hidden. Similarly, if any narrative was entered into the Presenting Information narrative field when switching from an Alternative Response Assessment the narrative will be saved and moved to the Family Support Network field.

The screenshot displays the eWiSACWIS software interface. At the top, the logo "eWiSACWIS" is on the left, and navigation icons for "TM", "Print", "Spell Check", and "Help" are on the right. Below the header is a "Case Information" section with the following details: Case Name: Madeup, Case; Case ID: 8264961; Referral Date: 10/20/2010; Assessment Type: Alternative (selected in a dropdown menu); and a checkbox for "IA Completed" which is currently unchecked. A tabbed interface below shows several tabs: "Part. Info", "Presenting Issues", "ChildFnctng", "AdultFnctng", "ParentalPractices", "Risk and Safety", and "Summary" (which is the active tab). The "Summary" tab contains three main sections: "Closing Summary" with a text area for "Closing Summary/Supervisor Comments (Include any referrals to community resources that were made)"; "Case Disposition" with radio buttons for "Case Closed" and "Case Opened", and corresponding dropdown menus for "Reason Case Closed" and "Reason Case Opened"; and "Correspondence" with sub-sections for "Mandated Reporter" (including a "Not applicable" checkbox and a "Date mandated reporter given feedback" field set to "00/00/0000") and "Relative Reporter" (including a "Not applicable" checkbox). At the bottom right of the form are "Save" and "Close" buttons.

More on Switching between Assessment types: If a pilot county started an IA Primary and selected Alternative as the Assessment Type and a worker from a non-pilot county opened the pending IA Primary, the page will open initially in view-only mode with an immediate pop-up page warning the user that making a change to the page will switch the type of IA Primary from an Alternative to a Traditional response. If the user clicks 'Yes' to proceed, the IA Primary will switch to a Traditional response and the Alternative information will copy into the narrative fields as described above. If the user selects 'No' to the pop-up page, the pop-up will close and the IA Primary will remain Alternative and disabled. The non-pilot county will be prevented from making changes to the page.

**For demonstration purposes let's "Save" the page and return to the Assessment page. You will see there are some changes here as well.**

## Alternative Response

If the associated IA Primary page's Assessment Type is 'Alternative,' the Maltreater group box will be disabled.

**eWiSACWIS** TM Print Spell Check Help

**Assessment**  
Name: Madeup, Case      Assessment ID: 8229948      Status: Open

**Report**  
Response Time: Within 5 business days      Date: 10/20/2010

Participants      **Basic**      **Allegations**      Contacts      Results

**Allegations**

Report ID	Alleged Victim	A/N Code	Determination	Dt or Approx Dt of Alleged Mal	Resided in OHC	Medical	Fatality	
<input checked="" type="radio"/> 8488472	Child Madeup	Sexual Abuse <a href="#">Describe</a>	Services Needed	10/18/2010	N	N	N	<a href="#">Edit</a>
<input type="radio"/> 8488472	Child Madeup	Neglect <a href="#">Describe</a>	Pending	10/19/2010	N		N	<a href="#">Edit</a>

**Maltreater(s)**

Alleged Maltreater	Relationship to Victim	Determination
Alt Response - No Maltreat	Biological Parent(s)	AR - Non Victim

Independent Investigation      County of Origination:        Is the alleged victim(s) in Agency legal and/or physical custody

[Save](#)      [Close](#)

The values for the **Determination** drop-down field on the Allegations tab have been modified to display the following values for selection:

- Pending
- Services Needed
- Services Not Needed

### Additional Alternative Response Changes:

Alternative Response assessments will not allow workers to select an Alleged Maltreater. As a result, the system will not require that an Alleged Maltreater, Relationship to Victim, and Determination be recorded.

Alternative Response assessments require a determination value of 'Services Needed' or 'Services Not Needed.' As a result, maltreatment determination values of 'substantiated' or 'unsubstantiated' have been removed.

# Alternative Response

Alternative Response assessments require approval. As a result, the user must select a final disposition for each allegation from the Determination drop-down field.

If there is a determination of 'Services Needed,' then the overall Result of the Assessment will be 'Services Needed.' If the only determination for the assessment is 'Services Not Needed,' the overall Result will be 'Services Not Needed.' The Result will display in the Assessment Results field of the Results tab and to the right of the Assessment icon on the outliner.

The screenshot displays the eWiSACWIS interface. At the top, the header includes the logo and navigation icons for TM, Print, Spell Check, and Help. Below the header, there are two tabs: 'Assessment' and 'Report'. The 'Assessment' tab shows details for 'Name: Madeup, Case', 'Assessment ID: 8229948', and 'Status: Open'. The 'Report' tab shows 'Response Time: Within 5 business days' and 'Date: 10/20/2010'. A navigation bar contains tabs for 'Participants', 'Basic', 'Allegations', 'Contacts', and 'Results', with 'Results' being the active tab. The main content area is divided into several sections: 'Assessment Results' (containing 'Result: Services Needed' with a red arrow pointing to it), 'Disposition', 'Family RA Future A/N' (with Abuse, Neglect, and Risk Level scores), 'Safety Assessment' (with Safety Decision), and 'Strengths and Needs' (with Needs Level). Below these is the 'Initial Assessment - Primary Rating' section, which includes a grid of radio buttons for 'Maltreatment', 'Adult Functioning', 'Circumstances', 'Parenting - General', 'Child Functioning', 'Family's Functioning', and 'Parenting - Discipline'. The 'Family Service Level' section shows 'Family Service Level: Low' and an 'Override Family Service Level' checkbox. The 'Initial Face-to-Face Contact Information' section includes a date and time for the next contact, a link to 'CPS Report 8488472', and a link to 'Create Initial Face-to-Face Contact Note'. At the bottom, there are 'Options' and 'Go' buttons, and 'Save' and 'Close' buttons.

# Alternative Response

## Outliner View

### [Kellogg, Cathy B. \(9222251\) Actions](#)

CPS Family - Initial Assessment 01/07/2008 Green, Supervisor ERO-Bethany  
CS 751 Corn Flakes Drive , Abbotsford, WI 54405



Access Reports



Agreements and Notices



Assessment



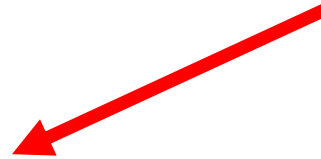
[Assessment Services Not Needed 03/03/2010](#)



[Initial Assessment-Primary-Alternative Response 03/03/2010](#)



[Safety Assessment, Analysis and Plan \(IAP\)](#)



# Alternative Response

Finally, there is a template that supports the Alternative Response changes in eWiSACWIS. The template opens from the Options drop-down and pre-fills from the Assessment page(s).

File Edit View Insert Format Tools Table Window Help Adobe PDF Acrobat Comments

### ALTERNATIVE RESPONSE ASSESSMENT

Case Name		Case Number			
Referral Date		Date Worker Assigned			
<b>CHILD INFORMATION</b>					
Child Name		Birthdate			
<b>PARENT INFORMATION</b>					
Parental Role Name		Birthdate			
<b>I. CONTACT</b>					
Document the interview protocol, contacts, and meetings related to the completion of the initial assessment.					
<b>First Contact</b>					
Date – First face-to-face contact with family member		Time – First face-to-face contact with family member			
<b>Contacts</b> (Include first contact listed above)					
Date / Time	Participant	Note Type	Location	Result	Case Note ID
<b>II. NARRATIVE FIELDS</b>					
<b>Describe the Presenting CPS Issue, Family Strengths and Needs</b>					
Describe the issues occurring in the family that have brought them to the attention of CPS. Describe both the strengths and needs identified in the family.					
<b>Safety Assessment</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> One or both parents / caregivers intend(ed) to hurt the child.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Living arrangements seriously endanger the physical health of the child.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Maltreating parent / caregiver exhibits no remorse or guilt.					
<b>Child(ren)'s Functioning</b>					
Describe the child(ren)'s general functioning and effects of any maltreatment.					
Child Name		Full Screen			
Description		Close Full Screen			
<b>Safety Assessment</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Child shows effects of maltreatment, such as serious emotional symptoms and lack of behavioral control.					