

Fatality Guide

Child Death, Serious Injury or Egregious Incident of Abuse or Neglect

Introduction

2009 Wisconsin Act 78 requires county agencies to notify the Department of Children and Families (DCF) in cases of child death, serious injury, or egregious incidents where abuse or neglect is suspected. Agencies are also required to notify DCF in cases where a child placed outside of the home is suspected to have committed suicide.

The county agency must use the statutory definitions of serious injury or egregious abuse or neglect to determine if a case qualifies for notification under Section 48.981(7)(cr), Wis. Stats. The agency must gather all information available about the incident and report the incident within two business days using form DCF-F-CFS2091-E, Child Death, Serious Injury or Egregious Incident Notification. DCF will make a final determination if the reported case qualifies as an incident that requires public notification. Qualifying cases will be posted at http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/children/CPS/public_disclosure/default.htm by DCF.

This guide will assist you in identifying and taking necessary steps at various points in these serious cases. In all cases, the handling of reports of alleged maltreatment and service provision must comply with all current CPS practice Standards.

Sections:

Access Report, Initial Assessment, Ongoing Services & Case Review

DCF must review each qualifying case and provide a 90-Day Summary Report to the Governor and appropriate standing committees. The completed summary report must also be made available to the public. The county agency and DCF will partner to review the case and produce the summary report.

Access Report

When a report is received, you must identify if the case potentially qualifies as a child death, serious injury, or egregious incident of abuse or neglect. If the supervisor agrees that the case does qualify, then the agency has two working days to notify DCF of the incident.

The access report should be documented in eWiSACWIS in compliance with Standards. When a child death is reported and screened in at access, the fatality should be indicated on the Allegation (Access Report) pop-up page via the Allegation tab of the Access Report page for the instance of maltreatment associated with the fatality.

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "Allegation (Access Report) -- Webpage Dialog". The browser's address bar displays "eWiSACWIS" and includes icons for "Print", "Spell Check", and "Help". The main content area is titled "Allegation" and contains the following fields and options:

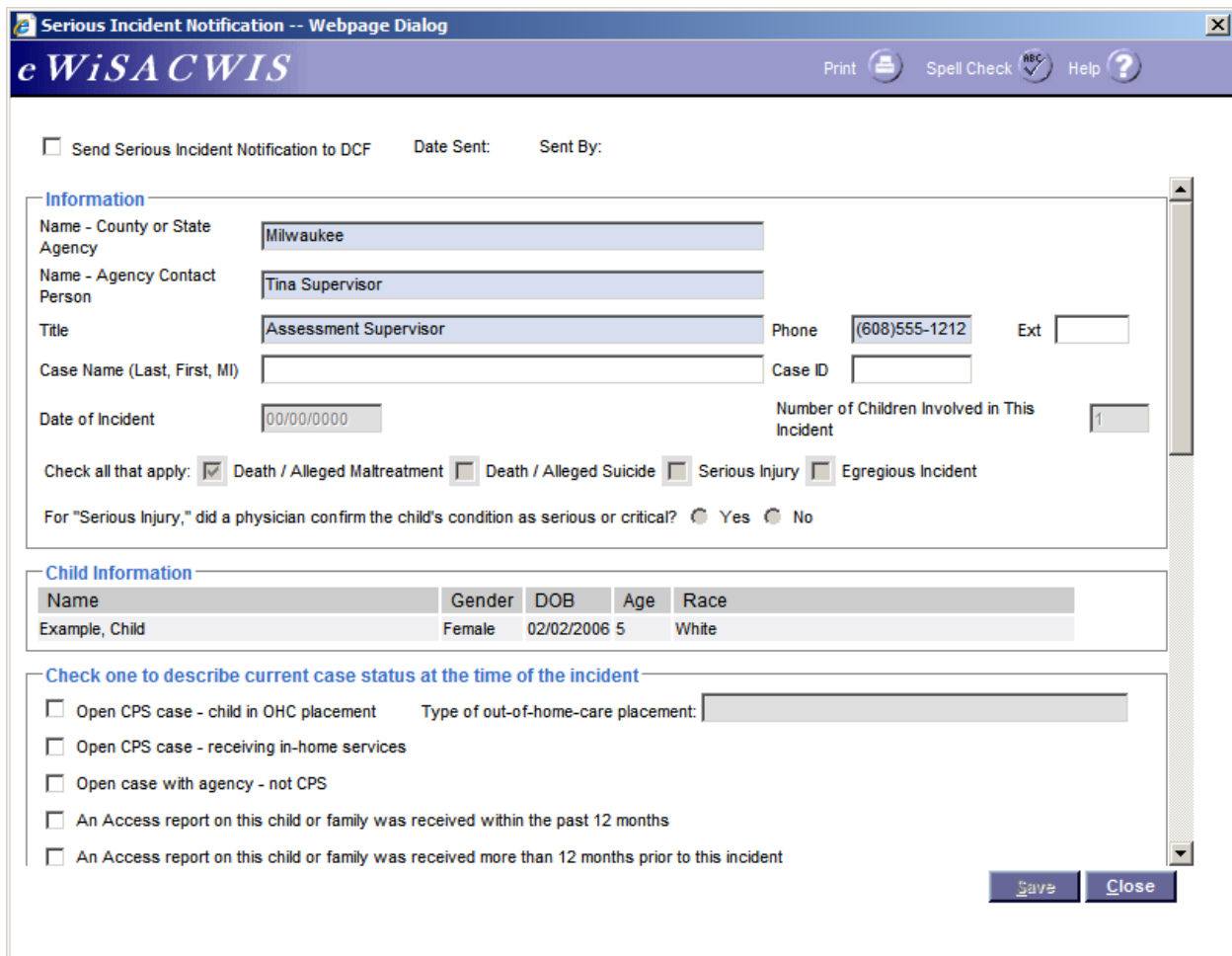
- Alleged Victim:** A dropdown menu with "Example, Child" selected.
- AM Relationship to Victim:** A link to view more details.
- Abuse/Neglect Code:** A dropdown menu with "Physical Abuse" selected.
- Description:** A link to view more details.
- Date or Approximate Date of Alleged Maltreatment:** A text input field containing "10/04/2010".
- Alleged Maltreatment occurred while the child's residence was an OHC placement:** Radio buttons for "Yes", "No" (selected), and "Unknown".
- Serious Incident:** Radio buttons for "Yes" (selected) and "No".
- Checkboxes for incident types:**
 - Death / Alleged maltreatment [Details](#)
 - Death / Alleged suicide OHC
 - Serious injury [Details](#)
 - Egregious incident [Details](#)
- Links:** [DCF memo 2010-01](#) and [Act 78](#).

At the bottom right of the form, there are two buttons: "Continue" and "Close".

The worker will receive a pop-up to complete the Serious Incident Report.



The Serious Incident Notification page is accessed via the Options drop-down of the Access Report page. Completing the Serious Incident Notification, checking the “Send Serious Incident Notification to DCF” checkbox, and clicking Save will trigger an e-mail notifying DCF of the serious incident.



Send Serious Incident Notification to DCF Date Sent: Sent By:

Information

Name - County or State Agency: Milwaukee

Name - Agency Contact Person: Tina Supervisor

Title: Assessment Supervisor Phone: (608)555-1212 Ext:

Case Name (Last, First, MI): Case ID:

Date of Incident: 00/00/0000 Number of Children Involved in This Incident: 1

Check all that apply: Death / Alleged Maltreatment Death / Alleged Suicide Serious Injury Egregious Incident

For "Serious Injury," did a physician confirm the child's condition as serious or critical? Yes No

Child Information

Name	Gender	DOB	Age	Race
Example, Child	Female	02/02/2006	5	White

Check one to describe current case status at the time of the incident

Open CPS case - child in OHC placement Type of out-of-home-care placement:

Open CPS case - receiving in-home services

Open case with agency - not CPS

An Access report on this child or family was received within the past 12 months

An Access report on this child or family was received more than 12 months prior to this incident

Initial Assessment

If, during an open initial assessment, the child dies from the abuse or neglect identified in the initial CAN report, this should be documented in the Initial Assessment. You should answer 'Yes' to the Fatality field on the Allegations (Assessment) pop-up page via the Allegations tab of the Initial Assessment page for the instance of maltreatment associated with the fatality.

Allegation

Alleged Victim: Example, Child

Abuse/Neglect Code: Physical Abuse

Description: Bruising-Burn/Scald-Cut/Laceration/Bite

Determination: Pending

Date or Approximate Date of Alleged Maltreatment: 07/11/2011

Alleged Victim received medical treatment as a result of this alleged maltreatment: Yes No

Alleged Maltreatment occurred while the child's residence was an OHC placement: Yes No Unknown

Serious Incident: Yes No

Death / Alleged maltreatment [Details](#)

Death / Alleged suicide OHC

Serious injury [Details](#)

Egregious incident [Details](#)

[DCF memo 2010-01](#) [Act 78](#)

Save **Close**

If it is determined during the initial assessment that the maltreatment reported at access resulted in serious injury or death or qualifies as egregious abuse or neglect and DCF wasn't notified, the agency must report this to DCF using the Serious Incident Notification page located via the Options drop-down on the Results tab of the Assessment page. This must be completed within 2 working days of the agency becoming aware of the incident.

A child fatality may not be reported as a fatality in more than one CPS initial assessment. The assessment that follows an Access Report of the death of a child should only have one CPS Report with a checked fatality indicator and one Initial Assessment with a fatality indicated.

If during the initial assessment a new allegation of abuse or neglect is reported that resulted in serious injury or death or qualifies as egregious abuse or neglect, a new CPS report should be created documenting this allegation. DCF must be notified via the Serious Incident Notification page launched from the Options drop-down.

Ongoing or Case Review

If a child death, serious injury or egregious incident occurs during Ongoing Services, a new CPS report must be documented for the child. DCF must be notified as described above about the new incident.

If a child death is the result of an Alleged Suicide while the child is placed in out of Home Care, DCF must be notified via the Serious Incident Notification page launched from the Options drop-down on the Provider tab of the Out of Home placement page.