

Division of Safety and Permanence

DSP Numbered Memo Series 2026-24

June 19, 2026

To: DCF/DMCPS Administrator
DCF Area Administrators
Child Placing Agency Directors
Child Welfare Agency Directors
County Departments of Community Programs Directors
County Departments of Human Services Directors
County Departments of Social Services Directors
Group Home Providers
Private Child Placing Agencies
Residential Care Center Providers
Shelter Care Providers
Tribal Chairpersons

From: John Elliott
Administrator



Re: **Updates to Response Time Decision-Making for Screened-In Child Protective Services Reports**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memo is to communicate revisions to the [Child Protective Services \(CPS\) Access and Initial Assessment Standards](#) and the [CPS Safety Intervention Standards](#), which take effect on June 20, 2026, along with changes to the CPS Access Report in eWiSACWIS as part of the June 2026 eWiSACWIS release.

These revisions reflect policy changes related to how response time is determined after a CPS report is screened in for an Initial Assessment. Changes in eWiSACWIS support the user in documenting their response time decisions based on the new policy.

BACKGROUND

Beginning in November 2024 and continuing through the end of 2025, two cohorts of local child welfare agencies (11 agencies total) participated in the Access Response Time Pilot. The pilot tested two things: the use of two response times instead of three and a new method for determining how quickly agencies need to respond to screened-in CPS Reports. The pilot agencies found the method to be straightforward and easy to use. Data collected during the pilot demonstrated greater alignment with response time decision making. The Department of Children and Families (DCF) Division of Safety and Permanence (DSP) has made the decision to implement the pilot method of response time determination as the new statewide policy expectation.

POLICY AND PROCEDURE REQUIREMENTS

Effective June 20, 2026, the [CPS Access and Initial Assessment Standards](#) and corresponding eWISACWIS CPS Report functionality will do the following:

- Remove the identification of Present Danger Threats (PDTs) and Impending Danger Threats (IDTs) at the point of Access. (Note: PDTs and IDTs will still be used in CPS practice but will not be assessed for the first time until the CPS professional makes initial contact with the family in Initial Assessment.)
- Use a new method to determine which reports receive which response time.
- Identify two response times: within 24-hours or within 5 business days.
- Minor changes were also made to reflect the change to the [Safe Haven law](#) which extends the age from 72-hours to 30-days. DCF is working to make additional updates to reflect the other changes to the law and will be updating our website, including [this information page](#).

Effective June 20, 2026, changes to the [CPS Safety Intervention Standards](#) will do the following:

- Remove references to identification of PDTs and IDTs at the point of Access. These changes reflect the only policy (in the box) changes made to these standards.
- Update language to align with changes made to *CPS Access and Initial Assessment* and *Ongoing Standards* in March 2026. This includes:
 - The term “case” is no longer used to reference people/families; the term “family” is now used to focus on person/family centered language/practice. The use of “case” will only refer to documentation (i.e., case note, case plan, etc.).
 - Parent/caregiver was changed to parent/guardian. Note: some parent/caregiver language remains in the appendices and will be updated as necessary in future edits to standards.
 - Three terms that are defined in the *CPS Access and Initial Assessment Standards* were added to the glossary with the same definitions.
- Minor wording changes were also made to ensure the wording and policy expectations of these standards are consistent with the requirements detailed in *the CPS Access and Initial Assessment* and *Ongoing Standards*.

eWISACWIS DOCUMENTATION

As of June 20, 2026, eWISACWIS functionality will reflect these Access Response Time changes. All CPS reports started in eWISACWIS before this date will be completed using the functionality that was in place at the time the CPS Report was created. All CPS reports created after the June release will use the new response time functionality.

ACTION SUMMARY

Revisions to the *CPS Access and Initial Assessment Standards*, *CPS Safety Intervention Standards* and enhancements to the corresponding eWISACWIS CPS Report functionality are effective as of **June 20, 2026**.

A [training webinar](#) is available for all CPS professionals with Access responsibilities to learn about the changes to response time. The webinar provides information on the changes to *CPS Access and Initial Assessment Standards* and how to use the new Response Time method. The [eWiSACWIS preview webinar](#) includes an overview of the new CPS Report functionality. Agencies are responsible for ensuring their staff are prepared to implement these changes as of June 20, 2026. Training content to support new CPS professionals or CPS professionals who begin to carry out Access responsibilities after June 20, 2026, will be integrated into Pre-Service, WiLearn, and related Foundation courses.

In addition to providing updates at regularly scheduled opportunities, such as the DCF Area Administration regional supervisor meetings and other appropriate shared learning forums, DCF technical assistance (TA) is available through a series of virtual support sessions. Two post-launch support sessions will be held in June 2026, followed by once monthly support sessions July-December 2026. Details regarding the dates and times, as well as resources for CPS professionals and supervisors can be found [here](#).

INFORMATION SUMMARY

REGIONAL OFFICE CONTACT: DCF Area Administrator

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT: Child Welfare Program and Policy Section
Bureau of Safety and Well-Being
Division of Safety and Permanence
dcfmbbswbcwpp@wisconsin.gov

MEMO WEB SITE: [Wisconsin Child Welfare Policies and Standards](#)
(<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/policy>)

ATTACHMENTS: [Child Protective Services Access and Initial Assessment Standards](#)
[Child Protective Services Safety Intervention Standards](#)