

INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT

This agreement is entered into between the Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services (hereinafter referred to as the Department or DHHS), including the Division of Children and Family Services (hereinafter referred to as DCFS), and the Arkansas Commission on Child Abuse, Rape and Domestic Violence (hereinafter referred to as the Commission or ACCARDV). This agreement shall begin on the date of execution by the party signing last and shall continue in effect until terminated or superseded by a subsequent contract or novation. Termination shall be effected by either party giving notice in writing to the other party at least thirty (30) days in advance of the proposed termination date, Said termination will take effect on the first business date after the 30th day, or the proposed termination date, whichever is later, after receipt of the notice of termination.

DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS: Each party to this Interagency Agreement hereby agrees to the following respective duties and obligations described herein below:

1. The Commission shall establish and coordinate Multidisciplinary Teams in certain counties throughout the state of Arkansas which shall be charged with the duties of assisting in the investigation of severe maltreatment, the prosecution of offenders and the treatment of child victims and their families. The role of each Multidisciplinary Team shall be to offer ongoing multidisciplinary consultation and recommendations during the three basic phases of the management of child maltreatment cases: crisis intervention and investigation; diagnosis and treatment planning; and treatment implementation. Said duties of the Multidisciplinary Teams will be enumerated further in a separate Multidisciplinary Team Agreement signed by the various members of the respective teams with said Multidisciplinary Team Agreement incorporated by a reference into this Interagency Agreement.
2. The Commission shall annually cause each Multidisciplinary Team, through its designated coordinator, to execute a Multidisciplinary Team Agreement within and among its team members and the said Agreement shall be forwarded to the Commission office to the Child Abuse Project Coordinator for review and approval. Upon receipt and approved by the Child Abuse Project Coordinator and the Executive Director of the Commission, the Multidisciplinary Team Agreement shall then be forwarded to the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services.
3. For each Multidisciplinary Team Agreement received from the Commission by the Director of DHHS, the Director shall give written notice within a reasonable time after receipt to each respective Team, that it is appointing same as a Properly Constituted Authority to act as described in the Team Agreement and as described herein above with regard to cases of known or suspected severe child maltreatment. Said written notice shall further authorize the Multidisciplinary Team to receive and consider confidential information.

4. DHHS, through representatives of the Department or DCFS, shall share confidential information about pending investigations, true reports or open cases involving severe maltreatment with the Multidisciplinary Team members. For purposes of this Agreement, any information furnished or made available to the Commission or any Multidisciplinary Team member by DCFS including protected health information as defined by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996, is collectively referred to as "Confidential Information". The Multidisciplinary Team shall treat all Confidential Information which is obtained by it through its performance under the Multidisciplinary Team Agreement as Confidential Information to the extent that confidential treatment is provided under State and Federal law, and shall not use any information so obtained in any manner except as necessary for the proper discharge of its obligations and securing of its rights hereunder.

5. The Commission and each Multidisciplinary team shall safeguard the use and disclosure of information concerning applicants for or recipients of Title XIX services in accordance with 42 CFR Part 431, Subpart F, and shall comply with 45 CFR Parts 160 and 164 and shall restrict access to and disclosure of such information in compliance with federal and state laws and regulations.

Each of the undersigned parties agree to the terms, conditions, duties and obligations recited herein above. Each party acknowledges the authority to execute said Agreement and to bind their respective agencies accordingly.

Max Snowden, Executive Director
Arkansas Commission on Child Abuse,
Rape & Domestic Violence

John Selig, Director
Arkansas Department of Health
and Human Services

Date

Date