

**Multidisciplinary Team Agreement
And
Performance Criteria**

(County)

Goals:

Multidisciplinary Teams are established in Arkansas Code Annotated section 12-12-502. The Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) is designed to insure coordinated investigation and assessment of alleged severe child maltreatment. The goals of the coordinated investigation are:

- to reduce system-induced trauma for the child victim of maltreatment;
- to protect children whom have been physically or sexually abused, or neglected;
- to increase the number of offenders prosecuted; and
- to provide services and treatment to the child victim of maltreatment and appropriate family members.

The MDT concept recognizes that no one agency or individual has the scope or the legal mandate to adequately intervene in a family where child maltreatment has occurred. Team members are expected to respect the orientation, philosophies and mandates of various members. The MDT will encourage appropriate use of the child protective service system, the legal system, the mental health system, the medical system and any other resource systems that aid in the goals of protecting the child and reducing the trauma experienced by the child.

MDT Composition:

The MDT may be composed of representatives from:

- Prosecuting Attorney's Office
- AR DHS/DCFS*
- ASP*
- LLE
- CASA
- Local Schools
- State & Local Health Departments
- Local Medical Facilities
- Local Mental Health
- Juvenile Services
- Other agencies as needed

**participation is required in order to staff cases.*

Each agency or division there of shall have one vote on the MDT. To maintain voting eligibility, team members or their designees must attend 75% of the team meetings. *Team members must abstain from participating in any discussion of cases where they have personal relationship to the family or there is any other potential conflict of interest.*

Roles and Duties:

The roles and duties of the MDT include the following:

1. *Develop* a protocol for coordinated investigation and assessment of all allegations of severe Maltreatment. This protocol must comply with Arkansas Code Annotated section 12-12-509.
2. *Maintain* confidentiality of information shared at team meetings.
Any information shared at a team meeting or obtained as a result of participation on a Multidisciplinary Team is confidential and cannot be disclosed to any non-team member.
3. *Provide* a vehicle for communication among team members as representatives of their respective agencies.
4. *Review* all pending and true reports of severe child maltreatment as defined in Arkansas Code Annotated section 12-12-503.
Severe maltreatment means sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, acts or omissions which may or do result in death, abuse involving the use of a deadly weapon as defined by the Arkansas Criminal Code section 5-1-1-1 et seq., bone fracture, internal injuries, burns, immersions, suffocation, abandonment, medical diagnosis of failure to thrive, or causing a substantial and observable change in the behavior or demeanor of the child.
5. *Offer* on-going multidisciplinary consultation and recommendations during the three basic management phases of child maltreatment cases: investigation, assessment and crisis intervention; case planning; and treatment; and case plan implementation. ***Recommendations arising from this process are advisory only and are not binding on any team member.***
 - a) Investigation:
 - Provide and share information needed for the investigating entity or entities (DCFS, ASP,LLE) to determine whether the child was severely maltreated, whether any criminal actions have been committed, or whether the report was without grounds.
 - Facilitate effective protection measures for the child and prosecution of the offender on appropriate cases.
 - Identify concrete or support services needed during the time of acute crisis; refer as appropriate.
 - b) Crisis intervention and service needs:
Consider the following when appropriate for the child/family and the expertise of the MDT members present:
 - Social Services
 - 1) Safety issues
 - 2) Re-interview/extended assessment
 - 3) Program for teen parents
 - 4) Parenting classes
 - 5) 72 hour hold

- **Mental Health Services:**
 - 1) Referral of child, parent, and family for assessment of mental health, domestic violence, substance abuse, and anger management treatment needs
 - 2) Referral for psychiatric evaluation
 - **Judicial Intervention:**
 - 1) Court oversight in a dependency neglect case
 - 2) Out of home placement
 - 3) Order of protection
 - **Medical Services:**
 - 1) Physical examination of child, siblings, and contacts
 - 2) Follow-up tests of child (such as blood tests for syphilis, MW, and Hepatitis B and C, urine pregnancy test; X-rays for bone fractures)
 - 3) Developmental evaluation
 - 4) Contraception
- c) **Case planning procedures:**
- Provide information to assist DCFS in developing a comprehensive treatment and protection
 - Plan for each true case reviewed by the team. This information may include, but is not limited to:
 - 1) identification of the specific family problems and likely causes for these problems;
 - 2) identification of family strengths to be utilized in planning for the child;
 - 3) identification of resources needed to adequately address the problems, and location/availability of these resources;
 - 4) discussion of the best way to provide and coordinate needed services; and
 - 5) notification about plans to pursue criminal or juvenile court action.
 - Provide information to assist the Prosecuting Attorney on any law enforcement or DCFS case where criminal charges are being considered or where the alleged offender has been charged.
- d) **Case plan and treatment implementation:**
Develop a system to insure cases can be reviewed by the team as needed. Reasons for reviewing a case may include, but are not limited to:
- 1) obtain information needed to make an investigative determination that was not available the first time a case was discussed;
 - 2) determine the need to amend the protection plan in light of new information; and
 - 3) insure open lines of communication while various member agencies complete their mandates (for example, during the time between an alleged offender being charged and the criminal trial).
6. *Identify* system barriers to effective service delivery and attempt to overcome these barriers by recommending solutions to overcome identified barriers:
- communicating the recommendations regarding solutions to appropriate agencies or entities; and
 - advocating for development of needed resources in the community.