



State of Florida
Department of Children and Families

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Shevaun L. Harris
Secretary

DATE: June 21, 2022

TO: Child Protection Directors
Regional Licensing Managers
Child and Family and Well Being Director
Sheriff Offices Conducting Child Protective Investigations
Community-Based Care Lead Agency CEOs

THROUGH: Taylor Hatch, Deputy Secretary

FROM: Jessica Tharpe, Assistant Secretary for Child & Family Well Being
Sharron Washington, Assistant Secretary for Quality & Innovation

SUBJECT: CFOP 170-11, Chapter 6: Normalcy

PURPOSE: The purpose of this memorandum is to provide notification on immediate amendments to the use of baby monitors and privacy.

BACKGROUND:

In 2013, the Department implemented policies on normalcy to ensure children served by the Department have the opportunity to receive a healthy, normal childhood. The policy provides guidance to child welfare professionals and licensed caregivers regarding normalcy, babysitting, vacations, emergency care, and children's right to privacy.

CFOP 170-11, Chapter 6; privacy policy prohibits the use of cameras placed in bedrooms, bathrooms, or toileting. Anyone affected by the use of surveillance equipment should be made aware of its existence by the clear and obvious manner in which it is installed or by a written notice conspicuously posted on the premises. Prior to the use of any cameras, the department should be informed where any cameras will be positioned along with a diagram showing their position, why they are in use and when, who is responsible for the camera(s), and what happens to the footage. The surveillance system is not to be used in place of direct supervision by a staff member or caregiver. The information should be kept securely, and the information recorded by the system is only used for the purpose for which it is intended.

ACTION REQUIRED: *Effective immediately, baby monitors, to include those with cameras are permitted in bedrooms when used for the age and/or development the device is intended for based on the manufacturer instructions. In addition, baby monitors with cameras may be placed in the bedroom of a child who presents with a severe medical condition, after the approval of an assessment completed by the CBC, child welfare professional, and caregiver. The approval and assessment shall be documented in Florida Safe Families Network. When a baby monitor with a camera is used in a bedroom, at no time shall the monitor face in a direction that would violate the child's privacy. This shall include but is not limited to being able to view the child during diaper changing or bathing. Surveillance equipment is permitted, and anyone affected by the*

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Please share this memorandum with all child welfare staff, including all child protective investigators, Sheriff Offices conducting child protective investigations, licensing teams, Community-Based Care Lead Agencies, and CBC subcontracted providers.

CONTACT INFORMATION: If you have any questions regarding these procedures, please contact Teanna Houston, Statewide Foster Home Licensing Specialist, at Teanna.Houston@myffamilies.com, or Vanessa Snoddy, Manager of Policy and Practice for Licensing, at Vanessa.Snoddy@myffamilies.com.

cc: Grainne O'Sullivan, Director of Child Welfare Legal Services