



DATE: April 14, 2021

TO: Tim Burch, Director, Clark County Department of Family Services
Amber Howell, Director, Washoe County Human Services Agencies
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FROM: Kathryn Roose, Deputy Administrator, Division of Child and Family Services

SUBJECT: Guidance and instruction ensuring all appropriate removal reasons are indicated when a child is removed.

BACKGROUND: Nevada has been greatly impacted by the Opioid epidemic, yet the picture of how this has affected families being served by Child Welfare Agencies is unknown due to data entry of removal reasons.

In order to properly understand how opioid use or other specific reasons have impacted NV children and families who are being served by child welfare agencies, the removal reason of “Opioid Use” or other specific reasons must be indicated when a child is removed.

REQUIREMENTS: NV child welfare agencies shall immediately begin using removal reasons as a way to capture a more accurate picture of why each specific child came into care. Any applicable removal reason should be marked on each individual case and more than one can and should be indicated when appropriate.

For example, “Opioid Use” should be indicated as a removal reason when opioids contribute to or cause removals. Opioid Use may contribute to Neglect or Abuse of a child and while “Neglect” or “Abuse” may be chosen as a removal reason, “Opioid Use” should also be marked. Below are all removal reasons.

Removal Reasons:*			
ABANDONMENT	DOMVIOLENCE	NEGLECT	PHYSICAL ABUSE
CHILD BEHAVIOR	DRUGAFFECTCHILD	PARENT DEATH	PRNTMETHUSE
CHILDALCOHOLUSE	EMOTIONAL ABUSE	PARENT INCARCER	PRNTOPIOIDUSE
CHILDDISABILITY	FETAL ALCOHOL	PARENTALCABUSE	RELINQUISHMENT
CHILDDRUGUSAGE	INADEQUATEHOUSE	PARENTCAN'TCOPE	SEXUAL ABUSE
CHILDMETHUSE	JUV JUSTICE SVC	PARENTDRUGABUSE	TREATMENT SRVCS
	MEDICAL NEGLECT		

DATA CLEAN UP: Agencies may choose to clean up their removal reasons at this time. UNITY will allow removal reasons to be added to a case for the duration of that case’s life span. Given the current settlement in the opioid litigation, Agencies are encouraged to add the removal reason of “Opioid Use” to all open cases in which it contributed to or caused the removal. This may help NV Child Welfare Agencies access settlement monies in the future.¹

Additional resources include the [CARA Practice Guidelines](#), which includes links to additional resources including a publication by SAMHSA: [Understanding Abuse and Facilitating Recovery: A Guide for Child Welfare Workers](#).

If you have any questions, please contact Kathryn Roose at kroose@dcfs.nv.gov

¹ [Nevada Attorney General’s office announces \\$45 settlement in opioid litigation](#)