

STATE-LEVEL IMPACT OF THE FAMILY VIOLENCE INDICATOR MATRIX 4

Federal law provides one clear outcome for a person whose safety concern has been relayed by a State to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Once HHS receives such notice from a State, the agency is prohibited from sharing information about the protected individual, except to a proper State court under very narrow circumstances. [42 U.S.C. §653(b)(2)]

While the law requires States to have strategies for safeguarding confidential data, which is handled by the IV-D agency, Federal law leaves the specifics to State discretion. [42 U.S.C. §§654(26)(B), (C)] Thus, States have approached information safeguard requirements differently. Some States have decided to use the State Case Registry's family violence data element as a part of their safeguard obligations. The State-level impacts of the Family Violence Indicator are addressed in Matrix 4.

Matrix 4 includes six columns related to State impact. Those impact categories are:

- ***Notice to Federal Case Registry (FCR)*** -- This is the only specific requirement for States related to the FV Indicator. A State must use its family violence data element to provide notice to HHS that a designated person has met one or more State criteria related to risk. Thus, the *FCR* column on the following matrix addresses State use of the FV Indicator to notify HHS about safety concerns.
- ***Protect Location/Shield Address (LOC/SHLD)*** -- The *LOC/SHLD* column on the following matrix identifies States that safeguard State-maintained location information for a person protected by the FV Indicator. The States in this column also may shield the protected person's address and/or other identifying information on documents generated by the IV-D agency or the court in connection with the child support case or order.
- ***Limit Access (ACCESS)*** -- Some States use the FV Indicator to limit IV-D or court access to the protected person's hard and/or electronic case file. Thus, these States may place a protected person's files in a special area with limited access. In other States, once the FV Indicator is set on the SCR record, only authorized staff can gain on-line access to case information. Thus, the *ACCESS* column on the following matrix identifies States that are using, or planning to use, the FV Indicator as a tool to limit internal access to the protected person's information.
- ***Careful handling (CARE)*** -- In many States, the FV Indicator is a signal to IV-D and/or court staff to proceed with care as they handle any matter involving a protected person. Some States have built pop-up banners, or warnings, into their automated systems. Others use a special marking on all of the person's case files in order to clearly show that the cases include a person with protected status. These signals inform staff about the safety concern and of the importance of proceeding with caution. As shown here, some States have provided detailed guidance to staff about ways to carefully proceed with

child support functions. The *CARE* column on the following matrix indicates States that have plans to use the FV Indicator to alert workers of the potential risk to the protected person.

- ***Limit Participation (LIM/PAR)*** -- Some States permit the protected person to limit his or her involvement in the child support activity in order to minimize the ongoing potential for harm. For instance, the protected person may be excused from attending court or administrative hearings, or the person may be permitted to participate by telephone. Thus, the *LIM/PAR* column on the following matrix highlights States that use the FV Indicator to identify people whose participation in child support matters could be limited, as appropriate, because of safety concerns.
- ***Other/Comments*** -- Other outcomes have been developed by some States. These, and explanatory comments, are offered in the *OTHER/COMMENTS* column on the following matrix.

Note that, as with all of the information presented in this *State Practice Guide*, States are constantly reevaluating their placement criteria. Accordingly, this entire area is a work in progress.

**STATE-LEVEL IMPACT OF THE FAMILY VIOLENCE INDICATOR
MATRIX 4**

STATE	FV INDICATOR IMPACT					OTHER/COMMENTS
	FCR	LOC/SHLD	ACCESS	CARE	LIM/PAR	
Alabama	X	X		X	X	
Alaska	X			X		
Arizona	X	X				
Arkansas	X			X		
California	X	X				
Colorado	X		X			
Connecticut	X					
Delaware	X					
District of Columbia	X		X			Referral to special staff
Florida	X			X		Future systems enhancements
Georgia	X					
Guam						Unavailable
Hawaii	X					Referral to special staff
Idaho	X	X				
Illinois	X	X				More at worker discretion
Indiana	X					
Iowa	X			X		Others under consideration
Kansas	X		X	X		
Kentucky	X					
Louisiana	X					
Maine	X					
Maryland	X			X		County-specific safeguards
Massachusetts	X		X	X		
Michigan	X			X		
Minnesota	X	X		X		
Mississippi	X					More at attorney discretion
Missouri	X	X		X		CSENet message re risk

Table 4 -- Grid

- FCR** = The SCR sends an FV Indicator to the FCR.
- LOC/SHLD** = The State safeguards the protected person's location/shields his/her address on documents.
- ACCESS** = The State limits office and/or on-line access to IV-D and/or court files and other information regarding the protected person.
- CARE** = The presence of an FV Indicator prompts greater care with case-handling generally.
- LIM/PAR** = The State permits the protected person to limit his/her involvement in the case and/or attendance at meetings/hearings.

STATE-LEVEL IMPACT OF THE FAMILY VIOLENCE INDICATOR
MATRIX 4 (CONTINUED)

STATE	FVI IMPACT					
	FCR	LOC/SHLD	ACCESS	CARE	LIM/PAR	OTHER/COMMENTS
Montana	X	X				
Nebraska	X					Referrals; more at attny discretion
Nevada	X					
New Hampshire	X	X				
New Jersey	X	X	X			
New Mexico	X		X	X		
New York	X					
North Carolina	X				X	
North Dakota	X					
Ohio	X		X			
Oklahoma	X					Others under consideration
Oregon	X	X				
Pennsylvania	X					
Puerto Rico	X	X				Referral to spec.staff; more pend'g
Rhode Island	X	X	X	X		Referral to special staff; loc/ac (fut)
South Carolina	X			X	X	
South Dakota	X	X		X		
Tennessee	X					
Texas	X	X				Local safety planning
Utah	X	X				
Vermont	X	X		X		
Virgin Islands						Undecided
Virginia	X					
Washington	X					
West Virginia	X	X		X		
Wisconsin	X					
Wyoming	X			X		

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