

1. Purpose

This manual provides guidance for all Oregon Department of Human Services Child Welfare professionals. This manual focuses on best practices in working with families, providers, and colleagues to attain positive outcomes for Oregon children and their families.

The purpose of this manual is to elevate the standard and improve consistency in practice of child welfare service delivery in Oregon. It does not supersede federal or state administrative rules or laws.

This manual provides comprehensive direction to caseworkers about what child safety assessment entails and how monitoring and intervention are accomplished throughout the life of a case. This manual attempts to answer what and how.

WHAT: Throughout this manual, more often than not, the “what” outlines requirements in administrative rule.

HOW: Step by step guidance on best practice in Oregon Child Welfare.

The manual is divided into chapters as listed in the table of contents. Each chapter consists of procedures (what and how to do the job), tip boxes, and exhibits.

Although Oregon Child Welfare works with children and youth, for ease of writing and reading, the manual uses the word “child” to refer to both.

