

June 13, 2025

GENERAL LETTER NO. 18-B1-8

ISSUED BY: Bureau of Policy
Division of Family Well-Being and Protection

SUBJECT: Employees' Manual, Title 18, Chapter B(1), **Child Protective Services Assessment**, 83, revised.

Summary

This chapter is revised to revise practice related to the Safe Together model.

Effective Date

Immediately.

Material Superseded

Remove the following pages from Employees' Manual, Title 18, Chapter B(1), and destroy them:

<u>Page</u>	<u>Date</u>
83	March 28, 2025

Additional Information

Refer questions about this general letter to your service area administrator.

Communication between victim counselors and domestic violence victims is confidential and cannot be disclosed to anyone, including child protection workers conducting child protective assessments.

This privilege includes all information about domestic violence victims who have used domestic violence program services, including information regarding whether the victim is currently a client or has ever been a client.

Additional Resources on Domestic Violence

For further information on practice issues regarding child abuse and domestic violence, link to:

- Tough Problems, Tough Choices: Guidelines for Needs-Based Service Planning in Child Welfare, addresses domestic violence at:

https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/nccan14_think_tank_2.pdf

- A publication by the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information, *Children and Domestic Violence: A Bulletin for Professionals*, addresses the impact of domestic violence on children and resulting implications for professional practice. Resources such as websites and publications are also listed.

The bulletin is available on line at:

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/factsheets/domestic-violence/> or can be ordered by contacting the Clearinghouse at (800) 394-3366 or nccanch@caliber.com.

- A publication of the Jordan Institute for Families at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Social Work, *Practice Notes* provides an introduction to domestic violence and offers practical suggestions for talking with and protecting adults and children struggling with this issue:

<https://digital.ncdcr.gov/digital/collection/p249901coll22/id/319980/>

- The Safe & Together Institute uses a perpetrator pattern-based framework that is at the intersection of domestic violence and children. They tackle the myth of “objective” practices, putting child healing, safety, stability, nurturance, rights, hopes and best interests at the center of their work; meaning they support the survivors and do not allow the perpetrator to be invisible. They offer free resources on their website: <https://safeandtogetherinstitute.com/our-resources/>