

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



August 10, 1987

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE No. I-66-87

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY COUNSELS

SUBJECT: CHILD DEATH REVIEW PROTOCOLS

The purpose of this All-County Information Notice (ACIN) is to share information developed by the Los Angeles County Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) as a result of growing concern about the number of children who die as a result of abuse or neglect by their parents or caregivers. ICAN was established by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to serve as the County body to coordinate the development of services for the prevention, identification and treatment of child abuse and neglect. ICAN includes twenty-three County, City and State agencies, all of which are directly involved in the local system of child abuse and neglect, prevention, identification and treatment.

ICAN formed a Child Death Review Committee to review the circumstances surrounding all deaths of children in which a family member or caregiver is suspected of causing the death. The committee is comprised of representatives from health services, law enforcement, child protective services, county counsel, the medical examiner/coroner's office and the district attorney's office. The purposes of the Child Death Review Committee are to:

- improve identification of deaths caused by abuse/neglect;
- develop procedures for responding to child deaths;
- increase the thoroughness and effectiveness of the child protection intervention, investigative and legal processes;
- promote early intervention;
- facilitate appropriate protective services for siblings of victims.

After several years of operation, the Committee published a comprehensive listing of protocols which facilitate investigations, documentation and tracking of child deaths.


Although the protocols are specific to Los Angeles County, they may be successfully adapted to other county systems. Interested counties may obtain a copy of the protocols by contacting:

ICAN
MacLaren Children's Center
4024 N. Durfee Avenue
El Monte, CA 91732
(818) 575-4362

The State Department of Social Services would like to receive from any interested counties copies of protocols on other areas of concern (e.g. interviewing in situations involving allegations of sexual abuse of children or in situations involving parents with substance abuse problems) that have been useful to staff in the delivery of Child Welfare Services.

When submitting protocols, please address them to Adult and Family Services Operations Bureau, 744 P Street, M.S. 6-532, Sacramento, California 95814. Also, please indicate whether you would be willing to make copies available to interested counties; and the name of the individual to whom inquiries should be directed.

If you have any questions please contact Adult and Family Services Operations Consultant, Ms. Doris Cole, at (916) 323-3328.


LOREN D. SUTER
Deputy Director
Adult and Family Services Division

cc: CWDA