



Joette Katz  
Commissioner

**DEPARTMENT of CHILDREN and FAMILIES**  
*Making a Difference for Children, Families and Communities*



Dannel P. Malloy  
Governor

**POLICY BULLETIN**  
**2014-02**

**Section and Title**     [44-12-8 Health and Wellness: Safe Sleep Environments](#)

---

**Related Practice Guides**     ["Standards and Practice for Safe Sleep Environments: Assessing the Safety of an Infant's Sleep Environment"](#)

---

**Forms**                     None

---

**Effective Date**         March 5, 2014

---

**Target Audience**         Area Office Social Workers, Social Work Supervisors and all other case-related staff who visit the home and engage with parents and caregivers of children ages 0-12 months.

---

**Purpose**                     To provide DCF staff with evidence-based knowledge about safe sleep environments for infants which will permit them to: 1) educate caregivers about safe sleep environments; and 2) assess the safety of sleep environments when they visit homes and placements.

---

**Operational Implications**     This policy and practice guide sets forth the Social Worker's obligation to assess an infant's sleep environment at every home or placement visit. It further requires that caregivers be provided with recommendations if unsafe sleep practices are identified; that a consult be held with the Social Work Supervisor if the Social Worker cannot resolve issues of safety; and that these activities be documented in the case notes.

---

**Distribution and Review Process**     Recommend that the Nursing Community of Practice develop talking points and partner with the Clinical Program Directors to review the policy and Practice Guide with staff.

---

**Suggestions  
for  
Improvement**

---

---

If you have any suggestions for clarifying or improving the attached policy, procedures or forms, please contact: Fredericka Wolman, Director of Pediatrics at 860-550-6643.

---

---

**Sunsetted  
Policy and  
Forms**

None.