

CHRISTIAN FAMILY CARE

POLICY NUMBER:	3.12
SERVICE APPLICABLE TO:	All Staff and Resource Parents
Policy Topic:	DUTY TO WARN/PROTECT
Purpose:	To protect potential victims from abuse, neglect, abandonment, or harm in response to a communicated threat.
Policy:	CFC shall endeavor to protect the safety of potential victims when an explicit threat of imminent serious physical harm or death to a clearly identified or identifiable victim(s) has been communicated to CFC staff. CFC shall take measures consistent with applicable legal requirements to warn the intended victim(s).

STAFF PROCEDURES:

1. Staff shall immediately notify his/her supervisor of a communicated threat. The supervisor shall inform their manager and/or director who will inform the Chief Programs Officer.
2. Staff shall warn an identified or identifiable individual if a client communicates to said staff member a threat of imminent serious physical harm or death to the identified or identifiable individual, and the client has the apparent intent and ability to carry out the threat.
3. Staff and/or supervisor shall immediately make a report to DCS [877-SOS-CHILD], or Adult Protective Services (APS) [877-SOS-ADULT] and/or law enforcement when there is reasonable cause to believe that a child under 18 or an adult has been abused, neglected or abandoned.
4. Staff shall notify a law enforcement agency, in the vicinity where the client or any clearly identified or identifiable potential victim(s) resides, of an explicit threat of imminent serious harm or death.
5. Staff shall, if appropriate, take steps to initiate proceedings for voluntary or involuntary hospitalization of the client who made the threat.
6. Staff shall document all relevant information within 24 hours of the event, using the appropriate Incident Reporting Form within extendedReach, and send the Incident Report to the appropriate agencies (see AG-24 Incident Reports - Programs) within 24 hours.
7. A safety plan, when appropriate, shall be developed to prevent recurrence of the abuse in substantiated cases.

RESOURCE PARENT PROCEDURES:

1. The resource parent shall warn an identified or identifiable individual if a client communicates a threat of imminent serious physical harm or death to the identified or identifiable individual, and the client has the apparent intent and ability to carry out the threat.

