

# Plans of Safe Care

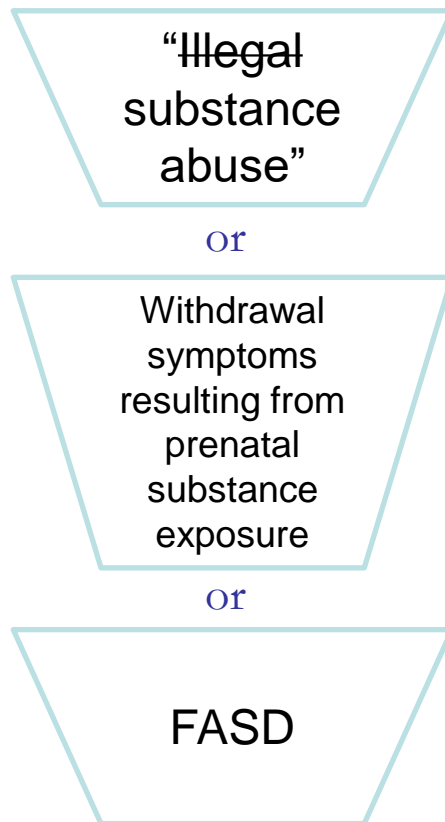


# Plans of Safe Care

- Ensure the safety and well-being of an infant who has been affected by substance use.
- Include services and supports for both the infant and their mother and other caregivers.
- Required in both federal and state legislation.

# Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (2016)

- After 2016, “illegal” removed and family/caregivers added to Plans of Safe Care



## CARA required:

1. Health care providers “notify the child protective services systems”...

AND

2. Development of a plan of safe care for the infant and affected family member or caregiver

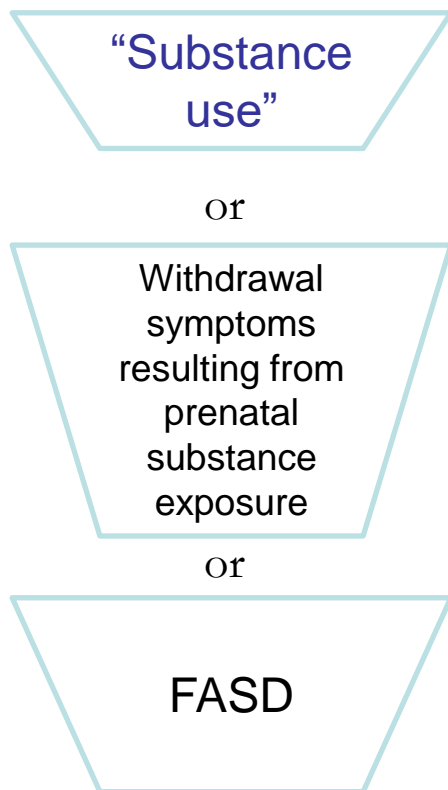
*Effective 2016*



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

# ▶ Act 54 of 2018

Act 54 amended the PA Child Protective Services Law (CPSL) to comply with the CAPTA changes.



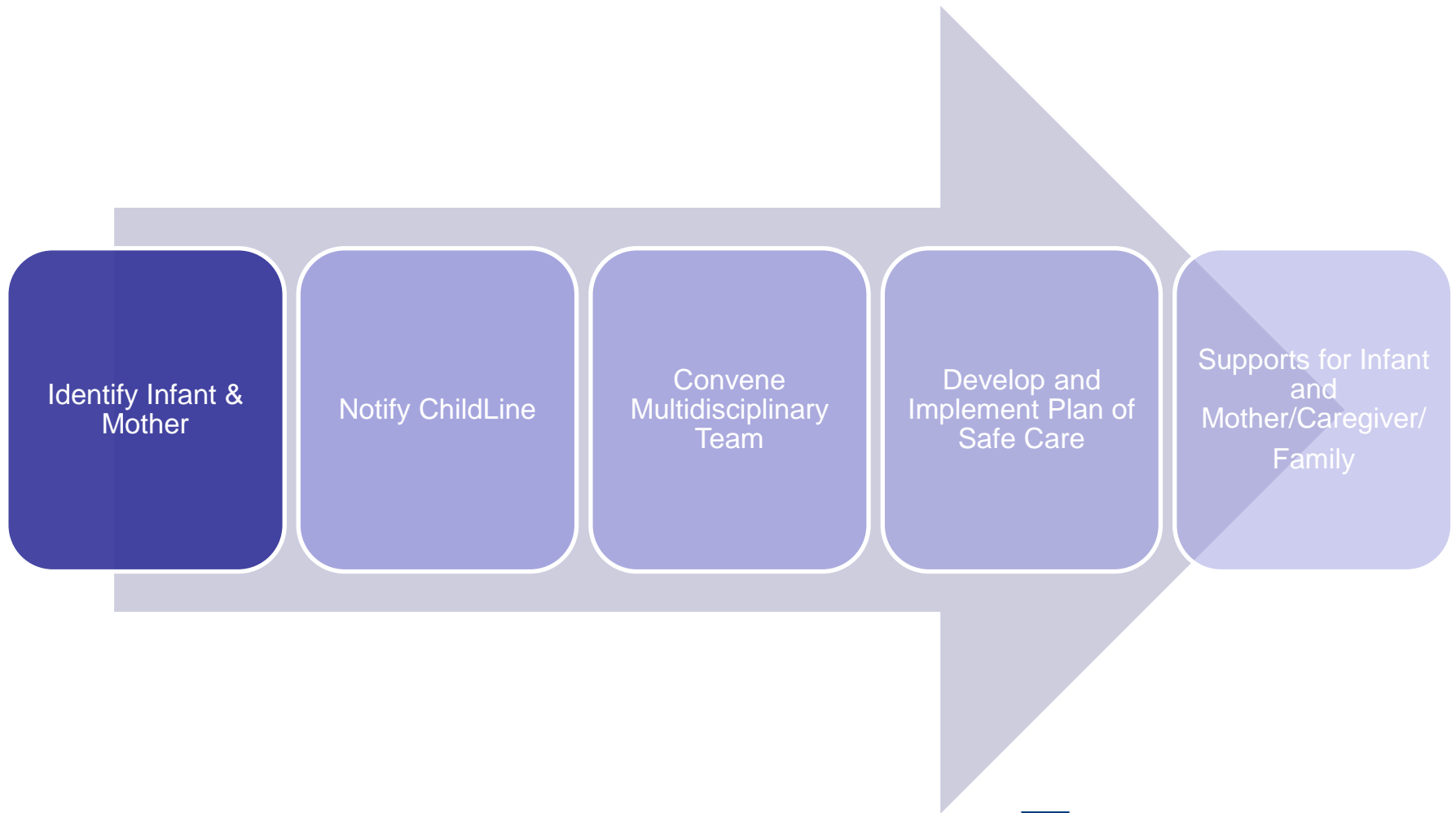
Reworks CPSL’s Section 6386 to shift from **“mandatory reporting”** to **“notification”**

Notification is for purpose of “assessing” a child and the child’s family for a Plan of Safe Care

Requires PA DHS to collaborate with Department of Health and PA Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs on “written protocols”

*Effective 2018*

# Steps to Developing Plan of Safe Care



## Plans of Safe Care are for:

- Infants (up to 1 year of age) affected by substance use or withdrawal symptoms from prenatal drug exposure, or a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder **and**
- Their families and/or caregivers with substance use disorders

# Substance Affected Infant Notification

Mandated reporter types who may make Substance Affected Infant notifications to ChildLine include:

- A person licensed or certified to practice in any health-related field
- An employee of a health care facility or provider licensed by the Department of Health
- An emergency medical services provider certified by the Department of Health

# Notification

## The information reported Childline by the health care provider ...

does not indicate observable threat to the safety of the child, no Present or Impending Danger, and overall Risk Factors indicate no reasonable risk of future harm.



**Information Only  
Notification**

Indicates additional health or safety concerns. These concerns are sufficient to threaten the infant's opportunity for healthy growth and development.



**General Protective  
Services**



# ▶ Partner Agencies

**Partners in Plans  
of Safe Care**

Department of  
Drug and Alcohol  
Programs

Department of  
Health

Department of  
Human Services

# State and Local Partners

## **Public Health**

**Maternal and Child Health**

**Home Visitation Programs**

**Substance Use Disorder  
Prevention and Treatment  
Providers**

**Mental Health Providers**

**Public and Private Children and  
Youth Agencies**

## **Peer Specialists**

**Early Intervention Services**

**Court System**

**Managed Care Organizations  
and Private Insurers (e.g. Care  
Coordinators)**

**Hospitals and Medical  
Providers (e.g. Hospital Social  
Workers)**

# Effective Plans of Safe Care

- **Interdisciplinary** across health and social service agencies
- **Comprehensive** in their review of the physical, social-emotional, health, and safety needs of the infant and the parents or caregivers
- **Family-focused** as they assess and meet the needs of each family member, as well as overall family functioning and well-being
- **Timely** in their completion in the prenatal period or before the infant's discharge from the hospital

# Effective Plans of Safe Care

- **Easily accessible** to relevant agencies with the appropriate confidentiality safeguards
- **Collaborative** in identifying lead agencies for plan development, implementation, management, communication, and data submission
- **Evidence-informed**, taking into account practices backed by research, such as a preference that infants, mothers and families remain together whenever possible

# Commonwealth Monitoring Plans of Safe Care

## Data Elements Reported:

- Number of infants identified as being affected
- Number of infants for whom a Plan of Safe Care was developed; and
- Number of infants for whom referrals were made

# Support for Plans of Safe Care

## Plans of Safe Care Support Grants

- CAPTA Funds
- County level impact
- Not competitive

## Multi-disciplinary Workgroup on Infants with Substance Exposure

- Guidance
- Education

# For More Information

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