



State of Florida  
Department of Children and Families

Charlie Crist  
Governor

Robert A. Butterworth  
Secretary

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**DATE:** January 29, 2008

**TO:** Regional Directors

**THROUGH:** George Sheldon, Assistant Secretary for Operations  
David Fairbanks, Assistant Secretary for Programs *George Sheldon*

**FROM:** *Patricia Badland* Patrica Badland, Director of Office of Family Safety

**SUBJECT:** The Lawton and Rhea Chiles Center study on the use of the Comprehensive Behavioral Health Assessment

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**Purpose:** This requests your assistance in ensuring the completion of the on-line surveys as part of a study to analyze the comprehensive physical and mental health assessments and their use to drive case plans.

**Action Required:** Please share this information with your region and circuit staff as well as CBC CEO's, Sheriff's and Children's Legal Services staff. The dates for completing the survey are January 28 through February 8, 2008.

**Background:** In collaboration with the Office of Family Safety, the Lawton and Rhea Chiles Center, University of South Florida, is conducting a study to analyze the extent to which children in the Florida child welfare system are being provided comprehensive physical and mental health assessments to assist with the reunification and out of home placement decisions, to provide needed mental health services, and to examine the role of the courts and community based care organizations in the process. The study focus is children ages five years and younger, who have been removed from their home for at least 72 hours for a verified finding of abuse or neglect, and who may have been placed back in their home under protective supervision, placed with a relative, or placed in a licensed foster home. The first part of the study seeks input from a broad spectrum of stakeholders in the child welfare and behavioral health services systems through an on-line survey.

There are three separate surveys being circulated: one for Protective Investigators and their supervisors; one for the Judges and lawyers, including Children's Legal Services, and one for DCF regional and circuit staff and CBC staff and service workers. All three are included below.

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1317 Winewood Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0700

Mission: Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families, and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency

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**General Survey:**

<http://teamcf.teamfla.org/Surveys/gensurvey1.cfm>

**PI Survey:**

<http://teamcf.teamfla.org/Surveys/pisurvey1.cfm>

**Judge Survey:**

<http://teamcf.teamfla.org/Surveys/jdsurvey1.cfm>

**Contact Information:** If you have questions, please contact Frank Platt, Office of Family Safety, [Frank\\_Platt@dcf.state.fl.us](mailto:Frank_Platt@dcf.state.fl.us), 850-922-2860.

cc: Circuit Administrators (and other applicable staff)