

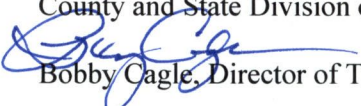


STATE OF GEORGIA
Division of Family and Children Services

Nathan Deal
Governor

Bobby D. Cagle
Director

TO: County and State Division of Family and Children Services staff and Contracted Affiliates

FROM:  Bobby Cagle, Director of The Division of Family and Children Services

DATE: March 28, 2016

RE: **Infant Safe to Sleep Initiative Training**

The Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) in partnership with the Georgia State University School of Social Work Professional Excellence Program, Department of Public Health and The Georgia Child Fatality Review Panel is proud to announce our first division wide **Infant Safe to Sleep Initiative!** DFCS staff, contractors and providers will receive a variety of tools to support this effort including practice guidance, access to state and local resources and training to educate caretakers of children 12 months and younger, using best practices recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics. Infant sleep related deaths continue to be the leading cause of preventable deaths to children in Georgia. This partnership aims to create a public, unified awareness campaign that extends well beyond our agency.

You may be wondering how will we accomplish this? Two tools have been created to assist case managers with sharing this information with caregivers. While they entail similar information, the format for providing information with caregivers differs.

The first tool is a hand held *What is Safe Sleep for Babies?* flip chart. The flip chart is filled with lively pictures, demonstrations and educator's notes to guide you through a discussion during home or office visits on safe sleep strategies. Each case manager, contractor and provider will receive a copy of the flip chart through their local DFCS County Office. Additional copies can be requested by contacting Kim.Washington@dhs.ga.gov with the Safety Management Unit.

The second tool is a video version of the *What is Safe Sleep for Babies?* flip chart. The video can be downloaded and played using a cell phone or laptop. The video can be shared with caregivers during home or office visits. A tutorial for accessing the video is included in the training.

To support using the two tools above with caregivers, a *What is Safe Sleep for Babies?: Train the Trainer* video is available. This training video also provides guidance on conversations with caregivers on safe sleep environments and practices.

For the Infant Safe to Sleep Initiative to be successful, all staff members, contractors and providers must have the knowledge, awareness and tools necessary to discuss safe sleep practices with caregivers of infants. Therefore the following instructions are provided and **required to be completed by June 30, 2016.**

For additional information or questions regarding the Safe to Sleep Initiative, please contact Kim Washington, DFCS Safety Coordinator at Kim.Washington@dhs.ga.gov or 404-463-7276 (office) or 770-714-6899 (cell).