

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY OF TORONTO

POLICY ON CHILDREN EXPOSED TO WOMAN ABUSE 2005

Background

The Social and Child Welfare Policy Committee of the Board (now renamed as the Advocacy and Social Policy Committee) agreed several years ago to develop a new policy on Children Exposed¹ to Woman Abuse to build on existing policy². The Committee further agreed that two distinct policies were needed: the first focusing on children witnessing violence in their country of origin and the second, children exposed to violence within their families. The first policy was developed and approved by the Board in 2003.

The naming of the policy as Children Exposed to Woman Abuse resulted from thoughtful deliberations among members of the subcommittee working on the policy. Evidence indicated the vast majority of the cases categorized as domestic violence were in fact woman abuse. It was agreed that by referring to the issue in a gender-neutral way we were masking the evidence that in almost all cases male violence was the source of the problem. Children who are exposed to violence of any kind are a concern to us all. Children exposed to woman abuse are dealing with an experience that goes well beyond a single incident or experience. They are often living for years in challenging environments contributing to the complexity and depth of the problem. It became clear to the committee that attempting to combine the issue of children experiencing woman abuse with other forms of violence, such as sibling abuse or schoolyard bullying would not address the seriousness of the issue. Future policies may still need to be developed to address these important aspects of violence that impact children and youth.

Children living within a home where domestic violence occurs experience the abuse themselves. Woman abuse³ or abuse of intimate partners⁴ is a devastating and pervasive problem in our society. We know the abuse children live through in these situations have far reaching effects, but we as a society are still learning about the full extent of the impact. The Children's Aid Society of Toronto (CAST) has within its mandate a responsibility to protect children who experience woman abuse. The definition of "Adult Conflict" from the Risk Assessment Model of Ontario (ORAM) Eligibility Spectrum applies to all cases where abuse is occurring between two adults.

¹ The term "exposed" has been chosen because it captures the real experience of children living with the cycles of violence typical in a home where woman abuse is occurring.

² *Strategic: Violence Against Children*, CAST Board Policy (September 1989 and Reviewed September 1996)

³ Woman abuse is defined as "*any form of abuse directed by a man against his female partner in an attempt to control and intimidate her in any way.*"

It may include only one episode with physical or emotional damage, but more often involves repeated, escalating incidents, which result in physical injury or symptoms, and emotional, psychological, or physical damage, which interferes with her well-being and that of her family. For the purpose of this definition, control is defined as "attempting to force compliance against a woman's will."

⁴ Toronto Police Services changed their definition of domestic violence in 2003 to include all intimate relationships between adults including married, non-married, same sex, dating, having a child in common and any former relationships in these categories.

We, as a committee, acknowledge that the vast majority of these cases are situations where the woman is the victim of her male partner.

Increasing Demand

In recent years, we have witnessed a variety of responses by VAW (Violence Against Women Services), the criminal justice system and child protection services to the issue of women abuse and its impact on children. These responses have resulted in substantial increases in referrals to all the child protection agencies across Ontario. *The Ontario Incidence Studies of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect Comparison Report* (OIS 1993/1998) noted an 870 per cent increase in substantiated emotional maltreatment investigations. This increase is primarily explained by investigations involving children experiencing woman abuse or abuse between intimate partners, particularly given the expanded definition of emotional abuse in the amended *Child and Family Services Act (CFSA)*. New service protocols by police, courts, shelters and community based counseling and advocacy agencies have resulted in routine referral of woman abuse cases to child welfare authorities for the purpose of assessing the impact on the children and plan for their safety in the context of the family.

A Need for Clear Direction

The unintended consequence of this increase in referrals has been an unprecedented demand on the child welfare system. There also was a growing awareness that cases involving children who have been exposed to woman abuse require a differential response⁵. This response should encompass the expertise of child maltreatment professionals that understand the dynamics of woman abuse within a child protection framework. There has been an increasing recognition by the child welfare field that child protection cannot act or intervene with the child in isolation of the abuse that the mother is experiencing. Attempting to intervene to “protect” the child without taking into consideration the abuse of the mother, can result in actions that can seem to unintentionally blame the woman for the abuse that she is experiencing. The child protection system has been guilty at times of re-victimizing women when assessing their capacity to protect their children from further exposure to abuse, yet feeling that not removing the child (or consideration of that possibility) may result in a failure to protect the child. The need to assess safety of the children and the women is paramount. The need to recognize the potential risk and explosiveness of any given situation, both for the victim’s and worker’s sake, is critical. In many cases, woman abuse is not the only problem in a family resulting in the need for additional assessments and supports to be considered to protect the child and plan for the safety of the woman. It is important to recognize in all child protection cases the need to assess for the potential or presence of woman abuse and respond accordingly.

In Ontario, there have been inconsistent approaches to woman abuse that have not supported coordinated efforts by key sectors such as child protection, criminal justice and VAW. Historically, these services have found themselves in conflict with each other due to different views and approaches. The mandates and philosophies of the services are different, yet they all play important roles in providing safety to women who have been abused and their children.

⁵ Differential response models include a range of potential response options customized to meet the diverse needs of families reported to child welfare (Trocmé, Knott & Knoke, 2003).

Promising Service-based Initiatives Underway

There have been significant service delivery efforts including:

1. A 2004 CAST Intake and Family Service pilot project looking at differential responses to children who are exposed to woman abuse and brought to the attention of child protection services;
2. A service agreement protocol between Violence Against Women (VAW) services and Children's Aid Societies in Toronto; and,
3. Specific efforts by police (Domestic Violence Team), courts (Domestic Violence Courts) and others (Woman Abuse Council of Toronto (WACT) High Risk Assessment) to educate community service providers about different levels of risk that may exist in any given woman abuse situation. This information assists professionals in assessing and determining potentially lethal situations and creating a differential response depending on the level of danger and risk.⁶

There has been increased attention to the significant impact of woman abuse and intimate partner violence on the lives of all family members and a consequential specialization of services such as shelters, VAW services, the police, the courts, and a variety of other community service organizations. The child protection sector is now an active partner with a range of community services in the support, identification and intervention of woman abuse. Child protection agencies have experience in acting to protect children but are at a stage of adapting their existing intervention practices when addressing children exposed to violence against women. Continuing collaboration with police, VAW services and other community service providers who work with women and children who are victims of abuse and the perpetrators of abuse must be integrated into child protection interventions as a regular practice.

Scope

Child Welfare over the years has experienced an increasingly more defined and comprehensive focus on the protection of children as a result of the acquisition of new knowledge and the realization that real and potential risk to children covers a broad range of issues. In the early days of child welfare our focus would have been more directed to the neglect of children. With increased knowledge and greater understanding of the human condition we developed our knowledge and practice related to the critical early years of a child's life, physical abuse, sexual abuse, clinical issues related to separation and multiple placements, the importance of early permanency planning and childhood trauma.

The issue of woman abuse has been in the public view for some years with concurrent development of knowledge and expertise in this area. Although exposure to abuse between two adults has not yet been defined in Ontario child welfare legislation as an element warranting a child being found in need of protection, it has been identified in the Ministry of Children and Youth Services' *Eligibility Spectrum* as a potential risk factor for children. The language naming woman abuse specifically is not in the CFSA. In our

⁶ Duluth Model: Domestic Violence Policy Checklist available at <http://www.duluth-model.org/>.

practice relating to children exposed to woman abuse we rely on the section of the CFSA dealing with risk of physical and emotional harm to identify that a child may be in need of protection. While the initial focus has been a specialization at Intake, it is clear that policy, practice, knowledge development, and intervention must be implemented at all levels within CAST. In addition, CAST assumes a parental obligation to children in care who have been victimized by domestic violence to assist these children and youth to reduce the chances that similar cycles of abuse patterns will not develop in their lives and future relationships. It is also incumbent on the Society to be cognizant of behavioral/emotional issues of the children and youth in their care that may be the result of trauma they have experienced through exposure to woman abuse and to assist these children and youth as much as possible.

The Effects upon the Child

There are several theories that suggest that woman abuse may have a negative impact on children. Social learning theory suggests that children can learn directly to be violent by the experience of observing the violence between their parents. Family disruption theory suggests that the negative events related to domestic violence such as frequent moves, erratic school attendance etc. can lead to a heightened emergence of behavioral symptoms in children. Post-traumatic stress disorder theory suggests that the traumatic experiences can elicit a cluster of violence related stress reactions that negatively impacts on the child's mental health, feelings of security and sense of self. Attachment theory suggests that woman abuse might lead to reduced feelings of security through the interference that domestic violence imparts on the parent-child bonding process. Feminist theory suggests that issues such as patriarchy and gender bias perpetuate cycles of violence that continue to leave children and women at risk. It is not only clear that there are clinical linkages between child abuse and neglect and domestic violence, but also that we have parenting obligations to children in care who may have been victimized through woman abuse. Our obligation is to assist these children and youth to enhance their chances that similar patterns will not develop within their lives and future relationships.

Cultural Issues

Woman abuse cuts across lines of race, nationality, language, culture, economics, sexual orientation, physical ability and religion to affect people from all walks of life. Woman abuse is serious wherever and whenever it happens. However for new Canadians the trauma associated with woman abuse is often compounded by problems associated with immigration and acculturation. Their cultural response can also shape how women experience and respond to violence.

Purpose

This policy is intended to guide future policy, practice, knowledge development and intervention at all levels of the organization. In addition, CAST has a parenting obligation to children in their care who have been exposed to woman abuse. We need to accept our ongoing responsibility to assist children and youth in our care who have been exposed to woman abuse.

From a policy perspective, CAST must set out clear direction to all stakeholders about situations where children are at risk as a result of experiencing woman abuse. In the last

fifteen years, since the last policy was written, we have learned a great deal about the issue of violence, particularly violence against women. A range of factors has driven the need for the development of a new CAST policy related to protecting children exposed to woman abuse. These include inquest recommendations stemming from the review of woman abuse fatalities, new service protocols for assessing substantial risk to women and their children developed by police and the Woman Abuse Council of Toronto, and a growing recognition of both the prevalence of woman abuse and its negative impact on children.

Unfortunately, the prevalence of the violence has not subsided in proportion with what we have learned. There is a growing understanding of the necessity to work in a multi-faceted way through various sectors to hold perpetrators accountable in order to protect the safety of women and their children. We need to provide clear direction regarding child protection intervention, advocacy, service development and collaboration with other service providers to significantly improve outcomes for children and women and all members of the family.

Principles⁷

1. Ensuring the safety and well being of children is paramount, as children are most vulnerable and have the least power in our society.
2. While maintaining a focus on the child, we recognize that attending to the safety of women who have been abused will increase the safety and well being of their children and we value and understand the importance of the mother/child relationship.
3. All children experience a range of trauma in families where women are abused.
4. Entno-specific and cultural difference requires a response demonstrating both understanding and respect of the implicit and explicit differences present.
5. Perpetrators must be held accountable for their abusive behaviour through all the mechanisms available in the community and through the court system. The accountability for making the abusers responsible for their behaviour rests with the community. Responsibility for placing restrictions on their behaviour should rest with the community not the victim.
6. Ending violence against women and its subsequent impact on children is everybody's business. A comprehensive community approach is essential through teamwork and partnerships between sectors that foster open communication, mutual respect, and cross-sectoral and cross-cultural collaboration. The goal of this approach is better protection and safety for women and children.
7. Intervention must be responsive to the totality of harm done by the violence rather than be focused on the incident.

⁷ Adapted from: Toronto VAW/CAS Collaboration Agreement 2004 and The Durham Gender Project available at http://www.durhamresponsetowomanabuse.com/whatsnew/Gender_Project.pdf.

8. As a Society we have a responsibility to stop the cycle of violence for those children we parent.
9. We have a responsibility to work toward preventing the root causes of violence against women and not only respond to the symptoms.
10. Once violence starts, it will not stop spontaneously. Active intervention is required.
11. Violence against women and its impact on their children must be understood within an anti-racist, /anti-oppression framework.^{8 9}
12. The responses to woman abuse should support, empower and assist women to better protect themselves and their children.

Core Policy Direction for CAST

The CAST acknowledges the negative impact woman abuse has on children and women. Children exposed to woman abuse and other intimate partner abuse is a form of child maltreatment. Violence against women by their intimate partners and the resulting harm it causes to children can be addressed. Our belief in every person's right to live free from violence is the place we will start.

While ensuring the safety and well being of children who have been exposed to woman abuse, the CAST must act in ways that will:

1. Recognize the need to respond differentially to meet the immediate and longer term needs of children and women while at the same time being responsive to the uniqueness of each family and their ethno-cultural background;
2. Work differentially with the mother of the child to preserve the mother-child unit in the aftermath of the violence. While recognizing the value of this goal, the child will always be the primary concern for the Society and our actions to protect the child may at times be at odds with the interests and wishes of the mother;
3. Use all mechanisms to hold the perpetrator accountable for his actions;
4. Recognize the need to address the systemic nature of woman abuse within an anti-oppression framework across all levels of service within the CAST;
5. Work closely with all stakeholders to establish effective responses for the whole family that promote safety and accountability; and

⁸ CAST anti oppression policy being developed in 2005.

⁹ CAS-VAW Protocol, Definition of oppression: The domination of an individual or group by another, more powerful, individual or group using cultural, economic, physical, psychological or social threats for force, and frequently using an explicit ideology to justify the oppression.

6. Recognize that women have a right to equality and safety. Social and economic inequity impacts women's ability to protect themselves and their children. Such systemic inequality increases vulnerability and limits access to services and must be addressed in service planning. CAST must provide a community leadership role to influence system changes that advocate for the elimination of systemic inequality.

Paradox

In applying the policy, we recognize there are inherent paradoxes¹⁰ specific to child welfare documented in previous research¹¹ that this policy and subsequent service delivery and advocacy plans must address. These paradoxes include:

1. Acknowledging the primacy of safety of both the child and the woman who has been abused, while also acknowledging the cumulative harm that has been done, and the needs for intervention;
2. Holding the male abusive partner accountable for his violence while also engaging him in a process to become a more responsible parent;
3. Respecting the woman's readiness to take protective steps while also ensuring the safety and emotional well being of the children;
4. Recognizing the extent to which male abusers will continue their efforts to control their families post separation while appearing to be compliant to outside authorities; and
5. Understanding that the male abuser is solely responsible for the damage created by his abuse while recognizing that the abuser may have undermined the woman's relationship with her children and therefore compromising her ability to parent.

System-wide Considerations

1. Mother/Child Safety and Assessing Risk

The Society needs to recognize that in some cases where a mother is being abused by her partner, CAST can protect children best by working with and supporting their mother. A mother's true capacity to parent a child cannot be assessed adequately if she is being abused and traumatized. The role of CAST is to protect children and work cooperatively with a mother who has experienced abuse. In collaboration with community partners and police, CAST needs to effectively challenge the abuser and hold him accountable for his behaviour. Child protection workers can provide a unique support to a mother and create a common front in order to challenge the real problem, the abusive behaviour of the offending parent or partner.

¹⁰ A paradox is a seemingly contradictory statement that may nonetheless be true.

¹¹ A resource kit developed by The Gender Advisory Committee of the Violence Prevention Coordinating Committee (Durham Region) specifically identified some competing tensions inherent in responding to cases of children experiencing woman abuse.
http://www.durhamresponsetowomanabuse.com/whatsnew/Gender_Project.pdf

There are many barriers for women leaving a situation of abuse. Obstacles to women seeking help to escape the abuse include fear of retaliation by the offender (serious injury even death), fear of the court system, the fear of being judged, fear of losing children, lack of financial support, the perceived shame of being identified as “an abused woman” and lack of housing or a place to go. Pressures from extended family members may be very strong to stay together especially in some cultures. Immigration status or lack of it may be used as a threat in some circumstances. Many of these barriers may be compounded by specific differences within Toronto’s many cultural and ethno-specific communities. Gender inequality and socialization also contribute to women’s disempowerment in abuse cases as women are socialized across almost all cultures and societies to hold the family together and therefore women often feel responsible for any difficulties/problems. Many feel that the abuse is their own fault.

Leaving the perpetrator can be devastating with respect to how that woman is accepted in her community, and by the rest of her family. Often the decision to leave means that she will become isolated with limited or no community supports. If the woman is a newcomer, this isolation may be further amplified. With separation there is almost always some loss of economic stability and often a significant decline in her financial situation and consequently the financial situation of the children.

Child welfare cases are often complex. When multiple issues are present, preliminary CAST research is indicating that there is a strong likelihood woman abuse will also be a factor. Alternatively, woman abuse may be the presenting reason for a family to become involved with CAST. Upon investigation, there may be additional issues within the family for ongoing work or attention by the Society.

Perhaps most importantly, we know that when women separate from an abuser they are at the greatest risk for serious injury or death.¹² Consequently, one of the biggest challenges in helping women and their children to live a violence free life is in the potential of placing one’s self and children in grave danger by actually taking the steps to get out of the abusive relationship. A woman living with an abuser assesses her own risk on a regular basis and often manages the risk to herself and her children by staying with the abuser. In this situation women can at least maintain some control over what happens to them, as they know the patterns and behaviours of their abuser. It is critical that child protection and all related community services understand the risk that women are putting themselves at when they attempt to leave an abuser. It is imperative that we offer effective supports and protection to the woman and her children in order to manage risk should the plan be for her to leave.

2. Services and Support for Victims, Collaborative VAW Services, Supporting Parents to Support Children

Living with violence and abuse is traumatic, whether one is the direct target of the abuse as a woman or is exposed to the abuse as children living in the situation. One of the most important factors identified as a determinant of healing and promoting a healthy emotional development, is the ability to utilize supports and build the strength to leave the abusive relationship. Strengthening the mother-child relationship is an important aspect to building a healthy emotional base and in providing children positive role models for healthy interpersonal and intimate relationships.

¹² Annual Report of the Chief Coroner: Case Reviews of Domestic Violence Death, 2002.

Common ground is found when CAS and VAW services agree that preserving the mother-child unit in the aftermath of violence is, in most cases, a desired outcome. A conceptual and practical linking of the needs of women and children would make these collaborations far more fruitful and change the way that we collectively think about families. Working in the community to secure specific supports for the children to help them learn to understand what they have experienced and express their thoughts and feelings, helping women to develop safety plans and access counseling and advice, and supporting families to understand their rights especially as newcomers, can all contribute to positive outcomes for the children and their families.

3. Perpetrator Accountability and Services

The CAST has only begun to explore the role it may wish to play in the life of a father who has been violent and/or abusive toward a mother. Historically, CAS workers have not had access to the tools necessary to deal effectively with the aggression and hostility that is/or can be presented by perpetrator. Nor have there been adequate programs for fathers that also address woman abuse as a form of child abuse.

Increasingly, it is being recognized that keeping the mother and children safe, in many cases, is dependent upon some intervention with the abuser. Historically, child protection workers have focused their involvement on the mother. In many cases this has served to heighten the sense that she is responsible for the violence, and as importantly, this has often left the mother completely vulnerable to his violence and abuse. In situations where there is a high level of risk identified, the only way to protect the safety of the mother and the children may be to intervene with the perpetrator. Interventions to manage the risk posed by the perpetrator can most effectively be carried out by inter-sectoral and inter-agency collaboration.

Child protection workers need to work with service providers in other sectors to address consequences and sanctions for abusive behavior by the perpetrator. Service providers can work to engage the father in changing his behaviour and choosing to use non-abusive and non-violent behaviours and assisting him in understanding the impact of his actions on his children, their emotional development and his partner.

4. Cycle Issues and Prevention

In homes where fearful silence and tension are the norm, children may learn to suppress their feelings. Feelings of fear, anger, guilt, sadness, worry, confusion, responsibility and ambivalence are often internalized and then resurface in various forms of behavior. There is substantial evidence to suggest that when children are raised in a violent home they too have a tendency to violence. While there are no absolutes, and we know not all children raised in violent homes will become violent, unless someone actively intervenes, the cycle of violence may continue.

5. System Collaboration/Integration

The need for collaboration between child welfare and other community agencies has been institutionalized with the VAW-CAS protocol that has been implemented across Ontario. This protocol agreement provides a framework to begin collaborative planning and interventions. There is work being undertaken across the community in all

disciplines and sectors to improve the identification and response to woman abuse. Through outreach and proactive community contacts, there are many ways to increase collaborative opportunities. Such collaboration could include police, criminal and child protection courts, mental health and counseling services. Collaboration is important both at the time of initial contact and intervention. This early and aggressive intervention may be helpful to young people as they move on through the various developmental life stages, including beginning a family of their own. They may learn how to manage their behaviour in relationships and ultimately parent their children in healthy and safe ways.

In Summary:

1. The Society to continue to deepen its understanding of the impact on children exposed to woman abuse and to intervene in a manner in a meaningful, culturally sensitive, supportive and helpful manner with children and their families reflecting current knowledge and best practices.
2. The Society to advocate for appropriate levels of service and community supports including services to children, youth, women and men.
3. The Society to respond in a manner that promotes collaboration with community partners wherever possible. This will further the goal of ensuring the safety of children and their mothers.
4. The Society to increase its understanding of the short and long term impact of woman abuse and domestic violence on children and to assist these children in breaking the cycle of violence in the next generation.
5. The Society to recognize our obligation to the children currently living in its care who have been exposed to woman abuse and to develop appropriate service responses to them. Interventions and supports must be extended to these children in order to ensure healthy outcomes for them.
6. The Society to develop an implementation plan that reflects clear policies and practices that are known to staff, formally approved and implemented and provide for a way to measure consistency in response to these cases.
7. The Society to provide access to ongoing education and training in the area of woman abuse, to respond to emerging issues, and to strategically build the knowledge and capacity of all staff.
8. The Society to develop and create well-articulated mechanisms for inter-agency collaboration that would include creating systems to share information.
9. The Society to ensure ongoing evaluation of interventions and approaches where children are exposed to woman abuse for the purpose of improving service outcomes and breaking the cycle of violence.
10. The Society to assume a leadership role in working with other sectors to encourage the safety of children as a primary focus while preserving the mother/child relationship.

Appendices

1. **Appendix One: Definition of Woman Abuse**
2. **Appendix Two: Eligibility Spectrum of the Risk Assessment Model for Child Protection in Ontario (Revised, 2000)**

Appendix One: Definition of Woman Abuse

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY OF TORONTO

Definition of Woman Abuse

Woman abuse is defined as "any form of abuse directed by a man against his female partner in an attempt to control and intimidate her in any way."

It may include only one episode with physical or emotional damage, but more often involves repeated, escalating incidents that result in physical injury or symptoms, and emotional, psychological, or physical damage which interferes with her well-being and that of her family.

For the purpose of this definition, control is defined as "attempting to force compliance against a woman's will."

Emotional Abuse: Includes any abuse that attacks self-esteem by acts such as name calling, shouting, screaming, any form of degradation, denial of her ideas and feelings, etc.

Psychological Abuse: Includes using fear inducing mind games involving the woman, her family, her children, family members or extended family such as threats of swindle, deportation, control of eating and sleeping habits, use of weapons, etc. Includes all other acts that are designed to manipulate, intimidate or terrorize her into compliance.

Physical Assault: Any act that threatens, injures, or attempts to injure such as slapping, pinching, spitting, pulling hair, biting, choking, burning, clubbing, punching, and slashing.

Sexual Assault: Any sexual act directed toward the woman against her wishes such as physical attacks on breasts or genitals, forced sexual activity accompanied by physical violence, or threats of physical violence.

Isolation: Any act that controls or limits a woman in her environment or limits her access to others and the outside world.

Economic Abuse: Any act that controls her access or right to money, work, etc.

Property Damage: Any act that destroys or threatens to destroy property, a woman's belongings, cherished possessions, pets, etc.

Male Privilege: Any act or action that uses as its foundation the assumed right of the man to have privilege over the woman such as making decisions, acting as the most important person, demanding to be waited on, etc.

Appendix Two: Eligibility Spectrum of the Risk Assessment Model for Child Protection in Ontario (Revised, 2000)

Section 3 **Emotional Harm.**
The child has been emotionally harmed or is at risk of emotional harm as a result of specific behaviours or pattern of neglect of the caregiver towards the child or resulting from the caregiver failing to adequately address the emotional condition.

Scale 1 Caregiver causes and/or caregiver response to child's emotional harm or risk of emotional harm.

Scale 2 **Adult Conflict**

Extremely Severe	a. Conflict Causing Physical Harm b. Conflict Causing Emotional Harm
Moderately Severe	c. Conflict Causing Risk that the Child is Likely to be Physically Harmed d. Conflict Causing Risk that the Child is Likely to be Emotionally Harmed

Intervention Line

Minimally Severe	e. Conflict-Minimal Risk that the Child is Likely to be Emotionally or Physically Harmed
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f. Minimal Adult Conflict

Caregiver: someone who is in a permanent or temporary care giving role (e.g., mother, father, live-in partner, caregiver exercising access contact, adult with a custody and control order for the child, foster parent, a teacher, child care staff, babysitter, recreational group leader, school bus driver, a family member providing temporary substitute care, a partner of the caregiver with no legal relationship to the child)

September 9, 2005