

# COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION

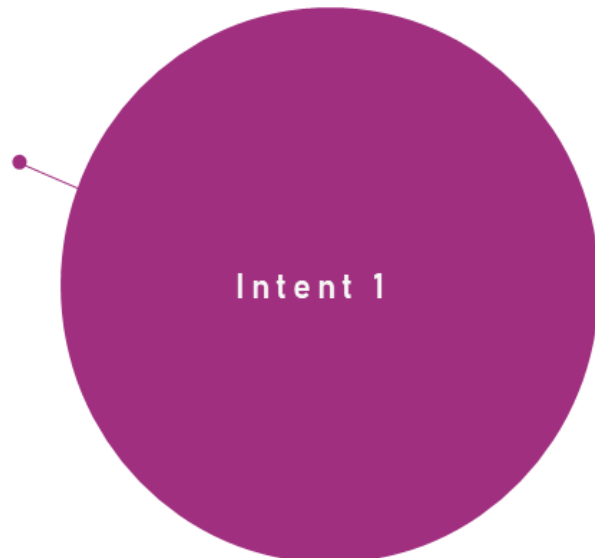
## Safe Sleep – Recommendation 13

**Recommendation Summary:** Develop a provincial standard requiring CFS providers to assess infant sleep environment in face to face contact.

**Primary Public Body:** Manitoba Families

**1. Manitoba Families and child and family services authorities to develop a provincial standard requiring all child and family service providers to assess infants' sleep environments as part of prescribed face-to-face contact with anyone receiving child welfare services, including all infants who are not in care (who may receive child welfare services directly or whose families receive child welfare services)**

Families advised that this recommendation will be addressed under Stage 3 of the Standards Modernization Project, as detailed under Recommendation 4 of Angel's Story. The timelines provided suggest engagement will begin in late 2022 and early 2023. The inclusion of a standard for assessment of sleep environment will focus on engagement with families to provide an appropriate context for discussion of assessment of infant sleep environments that are culturally safe and carefully balance infant safety and parental choice.



### COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION



## Recommendation Compliance Summary

In accordance with subsection 11(1) clause (d) of *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act (ACYA)*, the Advocate retains the responsibility "to monitor the implementation of recommendations included in reports made under section 27 (investigation) or special reports made under section 31."

This form details the assessment of implementation of compliance made under the referenced subsection of the ACYA. MACY assesses implementation of compliance with recommendations once a year but receives updates from public bodies every six months.

1. Recommendation Information	
<b>Special Report Name:</b>	<b>Safe and Sound: A Special Report on the Unexpected Sleep-Related Deaths of 145 Manitoba Infants</b>
<b>Date Released:</b>	3/13/2020
<b>Full Recommendation:</b> (including details)	<p><b>Recommendation Thirteen:</b> The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that Manitoba Families work with child and family services authorities to develop a provincial standard that requires all child and family service providers to assess infants' sleep environments as part of prescribed face-to-face contact with anyone receiving child welfare services, including all infants who are not in care.</p> <p><b>DETAILS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child services professionals will assess the safety of infant sleep environments.</li> <li>• Families receiving child welfare services and requiring resources and/or information on safe sleep practices will be identified.</li> <li>• Families will be resourced with a crib or other safe sleep surface, if none is available.</li> </ul>
<b>Intent(s) of Recommendation:</b>	<b>1. Manitoba Families and Child and Family Services Authorities to develop a provincial standard requiring all Child and Family Services providers to assess infants' sleep environments as part of prescribed face-to-face contact with anyone receiving child welfare services, including all infants who are not in care (who may receive child welfare services directly or whose families receive child welfare services).</b>
<b>Issue:</b>	Safe Sleep
<b>Primary Department:</b>	Manitoba Families
<b>Dates of Previous Official Updates from Public Body:</b>	June 30, 2022
	May 31, 2021
2. Compliance Determination	
<b>Limitedly Compliant 0.25</b>	Actions taken only implement a small part of the recommendation, requirements are only fulfilled to a limited degree by actions taken, resulting in significant deficiency in implementation.
<b>Self-Assessment</b>	Limitedly Compliant
<b>Previous Compliance Determination</b>	Limitedly Compliant
3. Rationale for Determination	

*(How did you reach this compliance determination)*

**Intent 1: Manitoba Families and Child and Family Services Authorities to develop a provincial standard requiring all Child and Family Services providers to assess infants' sleep environments as part of prescribed face-to-face contact with anyone receiving child welfare services, including all infants who are not in care (who may receive child welfare services directly or whose families receive child welfare services).**

**2022**

- In the current response, Manitoba Families details that this recommendation will be addressed under Stage 3 of the Standards Modernization Project, as detailed under Recommendation 4 of *Angel's Story*. The timelines provided suggest engagement will begin in late 2022 and early 2023.

The inclusion of a Standard for assessing an infant's sleep environment will focus on engagement with families to provide an appropriate context for discussion of assessment of infant sleep environments that are culturally safe and carefully balance infant safety and parental choice.

**2021**

- Manitoba Families reported that the best way to address the intent of this recommendation is underway, and a more thorough progress update will be provided during the next reporting cycle. An important consideration for a change to Standards is to avoid the implication that parental choice about infant sleep environments alone would be a protection concern because this would disproportionately impact families living in poverty and cultures where communal sleeping is practiced.
- Manitoba Families believes the Standards, as they currently are, do not exclude case workers from assessing the sleep environment for infants, although there is also nothing that explicitly informs the case worker to assess the sleep environment. There are some Authorities and agencies that have an existing practice to assess sleep environments, however, it is unknown how common this practice is implemented across the province.
- Manitoba Families reported having discussed planning for this work at the Standing Committee as of May 19, 2021 in addition to regular meetings with the Child and Family Services Authorities. Furthermore, as of March 24, 2021, the Standing Committee along with Authorities have discussed this recommendation and developed a work plan which includes:
  - Taking an inventory of all public education materials on safe sleep environments. Packages will be shared with the Authorities to utilize as educational resources.
  - A new Foundational Standard will be introduced which focuses on the requirement to assess for a safe sleep environment at Intake and Assessment. This will include consideration of differing cultural practices and other factors as per the various Authorities. The safe sleep assessment will include the provision of education to the care provider. Assessment tools, templates, and resources are to be shared at the discretion of the Authorities and agencies.
  - A reference value in the Service Planning Window will be added to the Child and Family Services Information System (CFSIS). This means that an "assessment type drop down box will be [sic] now include 'Safe Sleep Education/Assessment' and will allow agencies to document completion and uploading their agency/Authority specific assessment information."

**Analysis Summary:** The development of the Standard requested by this recommendation is part of Phase 3 of Standards Modernization. This will begin with community engagement this fall in order to recognize cultural safety in the drafting of this Standard. As Manitoba Families continues to show commitment to implementing this recommendation, but identified actions are upcoming and not complete, this recommendation will remain limitedly compliant.