

COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION

Safe Sleep- Recommendation 13

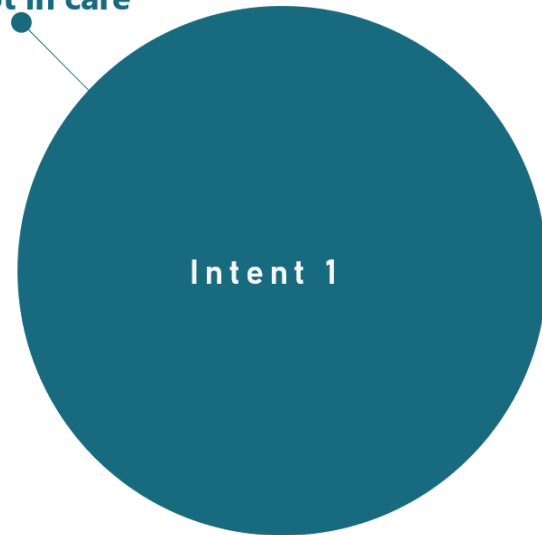
Recommendation Summary: Develop a provincial standard requiring CFS providers to assess infant sleep environments in face-to-face contact.

Primary Public Body: Manitoba Families

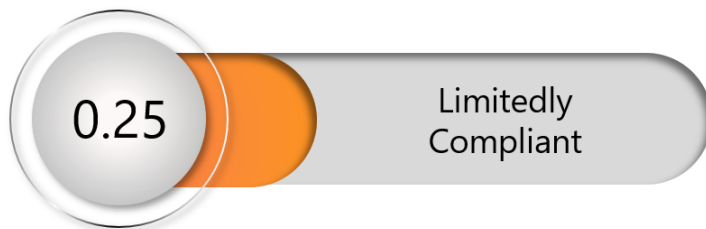
1. Develop a provincial standard requiring all CFS providers to assess infants' sleep environments as part of prescribed face-to-face contact with anyone receiving services, including infants not in care

A work plan was developed at Standing Committee which includes taking an inventory of all public education materials on safe sleep environments, the development of a new foundational standard on assessment of the safe sleep environment at the Intake and Assessment phase, and a reference value to be added to the Child and Family Services Information System.

Outstanding Action: Implementation of the work plan items and finalization of the new foundational standard.



COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION



Activities reported were initial steps to develop a provincial standard requiring the assessment of the safe sleep environment of children at Intake and Assessment. Significant deficiencies remain in implementation.

Recommendation Compliance Summary

This form details the assessment of compliance with recommendations made under Section 27 and Section 31 of *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act*. MACY assesses recommendations for compliance once a year but receives updates from the public bodies every six months.

1. Recommendation Information	
Report Name:	Safe and Sound: A Special Report on the Unexpected Sleep-Related Deaths of 145 Manitoba Infants
Date Released:	3/13/2020
Full Recommendation: (including details)	<p>Recommendation Thirteen:</p> <p>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>DETAILS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child services professionals will assess the safety of infant sleep environments. • Families receiving child welfare services and requiring resources and/or information on safe sleep practices will be identified. • Families will be resourced with a crib or other safe sleep surface, if none is available.
Intent(s) of Recommendation:	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).
Issue:	Safe Sleep
Primary Department:	Manitoba Families
Dates of Previous Official Updates from Public Body:	May 31, 2021
2. Compliance Determination	
Limitedly Compliant 0.25	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.
Self-Assessment	Limitedly Compliant (for Intent 1)
Previous Compliance Determination	N/A
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).

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: There have been some steps taken to develop a provincial standard requiring the assessment of the safe sleep environment of children at Intake and Assessment. Given there have been some steps taken towards implementation but significant deficiencies remain in implementation, this recommendation is considered limitedly compliant.