

WHEN TO REPORT INFANT SUBSTANCE EXPOSURE TO COLORADO CHILD WELFARE

- **ANY** case of a newborn or infant with safety concerns
- A healthcare provider identifies immediate safety concerns for care of the infant that results from active substance use (illicit, prescribed, alcohol, etc.) by the parent and/or caregiver(s).
- Prenatal substance exposure has impacted a newborn's medical, physical, developmental, and/or behavioral response **AND** there are safety concerns

If you have questions or concerns about a child's safety or well-being, please call the Colorado Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline at 844-CO-4-KIDS.



COLORADO

Department of Human Services

How can healthcare providers determine that there are no safety concerns?

Healthcare providers should assess whether risk factors impact the safety of the infant. If a healthcare provider has any concerns, they should call child welfare who can complete an in-depth screening and potentially open an assessment.

The following questions can help healthcare providers identify potential safety concerns:

- Is the parent actively participating in recovery?
- Is there evidence of ongoing substance use that impairs their ability to parent?
- How are the parents caring for and bonding with the infant? Can they console their infant?
- Does the infant require special care due to substance exposure or withdrawal?
- Can the parents meet the infant's medical, physical and developmental needs?

This is not a complete listing of potential risks factors, but intended to aid providers. Healthcare providers are encouraged to call child welfare if they have any concerns about the safety of a family or newborn.

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