**Pre-Service Module: Capstone - Guide to the Standards**

**Section Learning Objectives**

By the end of the Capstone-Guide to the Standards Module, child welfare professionals will be able to:

* Understand the relationship between the practice standards and the law
* Understand how the practice standards support consistent practice across the state
* Recognize there are consequences for not following the practice standards

**Section Themes and Key Points**

Below is a summary of the themes and key points covered in this section. This summary is intended to remind learners of the key learning points addressed and assist supervisors/ coaches in understanding what was covered in order for them to guide and support the application of learning for new child welfare professionals related to this section.

1. This module outlines the child welfare standards specific to the various roles in child welfare. The goal is to support new child welfare professionals in navigating the standards, exploring the content, and discovering how to apply them to child welfare cases.
2. This module reviews the four levels of government that impact child protective services:
   * **Federal**

Legislation, federal court decisions, and policies developed by federal agencies such as the Department of Health and Human Services, all have an impact on child welfare practice

* + **State**
* As federal laws affecting child welfare are passed, the Wisconsin legislature enacts related laws, and the Department of Children and Families (DCF) develops standards and policies that are in line with the federal legislation. These standards include the child welfare practice standards.
* Wisconsin is a county administered, state supervised system, and counties are required to follow the standards set by DCF. While there are variations in the day-to-day operations of each department (for example, some counties will enact more stringent timelines than required by Wisconsin Standards), all counties must at least meet the requirements set in standards.
* The mandatory minimum standards that must be met by agencies and child welfare professionals working with families are inside boxes in the standards. Information outside of boxes often further directs or clarifies the Standard information and provides best practice.
* Wisconsin Statutes, Chapter 48, called the “Children’s Code,” directly defines the responsibilities of: The Department of Children and Families; the courts; county human or social service departments; and the specific responsibilities of child protective services professionals.
  + **Native American Tribes**

As sovereign nations, Tribes are not subject to the Wisconsin CPS standards. Counties must follow the state standards when working with all children and families, including tribal children and families. The CPS standards do include language regarding ICWA and WICWA compliance when working with tribal children and families. DCF consults with tribes when developing and updating applicable CPS standards and policies.

* + **County**

Chapter 48 is the statute that gives county agencies and child welfare professionals the authority to assess safety, remove children from unsafe homes and determine safety and permanency for them.

1. This module has sixteen scenario-based questions that require learners to search in the standards for answers to typical situations in the field.  This reinforces the desired practice of child welfare professionals to seek guidance from the standards to answer their questions and support decision making.

**On-the-Job Application Activities**

Listed in this section is an optional transfer of training activity to support the learner in applying the knowledge acquired during the Capstone: Guide to the Standards Pre-Service module to their CPS roles and responsibilities.

This activity is optional and is provided only to aid the child welfare professional and supervisor/coach in supporting transfer of learning from pre-service to the agency. The child welfare professional, with input from their supervisor/coach, may choose to complete the activity or substitute in other activities.

**Option 1: Scenario-Based Questions Related to the Standards Activity**

* To support you as you are answering the 16 Scenario-Based Questions in the Pre-Service Capstone module, make sure you have a print copy of the following Standards available:
* The Safety Intervention Standards
* The Access and Initial Assessment Standards
* The Ongoing Services Standards
* Capture any questions that you have in the space on the next page as you are completing the Navigation Activity.
* Review and discuss your questions with your supervisor or coach.

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| **Questions to discuss with supervisor/coach** |