

	Agency Name	Office of Community Services (OCS)			
	Chapter No./Name	1. Administrative Policy			
	Part No./Name	2. The Agency-An Overview			
	Section No./Name	1-221 Duty To Report/Warn			
	Dates	Issue/Reissued	March 2004	Replacing	March 2003

1-221 DUTY TO REPORT/WARN

Child welfare professionals have a responsibility to report any viable intent to cause harm and any evidence of abuse or neglect to children, disabled adults, the elderly or animals that they become aware of during the routine fulfillment of their professional duties and in accordance with law, their individual professional licenses and agency policy.

When a client communicates a threat of physical violence against a clearly identified victim(s), our staff has a duty to warn the victim or to take reasonable precautions to provide protection from a client*s violent behavior.

Three criteria must be met for a duty to warn to exist:

1. There must be a serious threat of severe bodily harm,
2. The person making the threat must have the ability to carry it out, and
3. There must be an identifiable victim.

This duty is discharged if staff makes a reasonable effort to communicate the threat to the potential victim or victims and to notify law enforcement authorities in the vicinity of the patient*s or potential victim*s residence. Staff should consult with a supervisor unless the situation is immediately life threatening.