CARA Quick Facts
The Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016, known as “CARA,” is the first major federal addiction legislation in 40 years. It is the most comprehensive effort undertaken to address the opioid epidemic.

The intent of CARA is for states to establish innovative strategies for individuals challenged by substance misuse disorders and their families. As a result, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) requires a Plan of Safe Care to be in place at the time of discharge from the hospital for infants impacted by maternal and/or family substance misuse disorders.

Still have questions?
The ODJ FS Child Protective Services Policy Team would be happy to schedule a training or presentation. To contact us, email CPS-Training@jfs.ohio.gov.

To report child abuse:
(855) OH-CHILD • (855) 642-4453
General Phone (614) 466-1213
General Fax (614) 466-6185

Mike DeWine, Governor, Ohio
Matt Damschroder, Director, ODJ FS
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What is a Plan of Safe Care?

It is an arrangement that addresses:

- The infant's immediate safety
- The infant's safety and treatment needs
- The affected parent's health and substance misuse treatment needs
- The treatment needs of all household members with routine caregiving responsibilities for the infant (for example, the father, grandparent, roommate, etc.)

Expectations for Child Protective Services

Child Protective Services agencies are required to collect the following information during the referral process when infants are identified as being impacted by maternal substance misuse.

- Ensure that a Plan of Safe Care has been established.
- Ensure that the Plan of Safe Care addresses the infant's safety needs.
- Ensure that the Plan of Safe Care addresses the health and substance misuse disorder treatment needs of the affected mother and any other household member who will assist in caring for the infant.

Mandated Reporter Expectations

The expectations for mandated reporters can be found in Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.421. The law requires mandated reporters to make a referral to children services in any of the following circumstances:

- The mother or infant test positive for an illegal substance, non-prescribed substance, and/or misused prescribed controlled substance.
- The infant exhibits signs of withdrawal as a result of prenatal exposure to an illegal substance, non-prescribed substance, and/or misused prescribed controlled substance.
- The infant is diagnosed with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.