

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES FAMILY INVESTMENT ADMINISTRATION		TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE MANUAL
SUITABILITY OF THE HOME 316	COMAR: 07.03.03.07	TECHNICAL ELIGIBILITY 300

316.1 REQUIREMENTS

- A. Ensure, to the extent possible, that the home in which the child and parent or other caretaker relative live is suitable
- B. When there is reason to suspect that the home is not suitable:
 - 1. Refer the case to Child Protective Services (CPS) or another appropriate service unit within the local department, according to local procedures
 - 2. Note the referral in the narrative
 - 3. Place documentation from services in the case record when received
- C. Do not delay processing the application or deny or close a case because there is reason to think the home is not suitable

316.2 DEFINING SUITABLE

- A. "Suitable" means that there is no reason to suspect of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of the child
- B. Indications of abuse and neglect of a child or adult include:

Malnutrition	Untreated illnesses
Alcohol or drug abuse	Community or school complaints
Serious emotional problems	Homelessness

316.3 VERIFICATION

- Child Protective Services will provide written documentation when a child is removed from the home

EXAMPLES

Example 1. Ms. Ross comes for her recertification. She receives assistance for herself and two daughters, Kelly (age 3) and Kandy (age 4). Both girls are very thin and dirty with matted hair. Ms. Ross is unsteady on her feet and keeps dozing off during the interview. Neither of her daughters has been to the doctor in the last year.

- Refer the case for services
- Set a 745 alert for 30 days to follow up on whether Ms. Ross is receiving services

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- Impose PPI disallowances (\$25 for each child)) after 30 days if Ms. Ross is not cooperating with services or has not brought proof of the children's health check-up

Example 2. The TCA case manager receives a complaint that Ms. Lurvey's children are not in school and are left alone every night while she is out partying. The Lurvey children are 6 and 7 years old. There are already 2 PPI disallowances and the case has been closed several times for failure to meet the work requirements.

- Refer to services
- Set a 745 alert to follow up if Ms. Lurvey is receiving services

Note: Local departments have procedures for referring cases to services, which may include:

- supervisory or management approval
- contact with the customer prior to referral

Follow local department procedures but make the referral.