

Did You Know?

Did you know that per KRS 600.020 (26), you must have an assessment completed by a QMHP in order to substantiate emotional injury?

Each region has a designated emotional injury gatekeeper. The FSOS and SSW are responsible for staffing all emotional injury reports with the regional emotional injury gatekeeper to determine if emotionally abusive behaviors have occurred. The emotional injury gatekeeper will review the SSW/FSOS request for an emotional injury assessment and provide feedback to determine if the assessment is warranted. The gatekeeper will also assist the SSW/FSOS in locating an objective QMHP (a provider with no prior involvement or interaction with the family) to complete the assessment.

The assessment will determine if emotional injury has occurred, if emotional injury hasn't occurred but the alleged victim is at risk for emotional injury should they be subjected to further abuse, or if no emotional injury exists. A report informing the SSW of this information should be provided in writing within 30 days of the QMHP receiving the referral and should include recommendations for services for the child and family as appropriate.

SOP 2.24 Child Emotional Abuse Investigations and Emotional Injury Evaluations

The statutory definition of emotional injury was modified by the 1998 General Assembly. Kentucky now defines an emotional injury as an injury to the mental or psychological capacity or emotional stability of a child as evidenced by a substantial and observable impairment in the child's ability to function within a normal range of performance and behavior with due regard to his age, development, culture and environment as testified to by a qualified mental health professional (KRS 600.020 (26)).

