

COMMUNITY-DRIVEN PLAN OF SAFE CARE



What is a Plan of Safe Care?

A Plan of Safe Care (POSC) is a personalized tool to support pregnant and parenting individuals impacted by substance use, their infants, and any other household members. The goal of a Plan of Safe Care is to strengthen the family, support a healthy pregnancy and keep child(ren) safely at home.

Background

Federal Law

In the 2018 revision to [The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act](https://bit.ly/4nu30Uc) (URL: <https://bit.ly/4nu30Uc>), federal legislation required that every infant affected by substance use and their caregiver would have a Plan of Safe Care in place that also addresses the needs of any household members. Each state is able to develop what their POSC looks like.



52.6% of Michigan children under age 1 that are removed from their home have parental substance use as a condition of removal.

32% of pregnancy-associated deaths in Michigan are related to substance use.

Michigan POSC Protocol

Michigan's recent efforts to ensure that families are best supported through a POSC include:

- ♥ Beginning the POSC prenatally.
- ♥ Initiating the POSC through care providers such as home visitors, substance use treatment providers, and pregnancy health care providers.
- ♥ Using a common template.

Why is a POSC Important for Families?

In states that are piloting a prenatal approach to POSC, there has been a reduction in child removal due to substances.

A POSC provides comprehensive and coordinated support for the parent, infant and other family members.

What Does This Mean for My Work?

As a community-based provider, you can implement Michigan's Plan of Safe Care Protocol to support families impacted by substance use to:

- ♥ Understand the importance of having a personalized POSC.
- ♥ Initiate, modify, or complete their personalized POSC.
- ♥ Coordinate their care with other providers.
- ♥ Use their personalized POSC as an advocacy tool.



Four Ways to Prepare to Implement a Plan of Safe Care

1

Ensure you are screening every pregnant and postpartum person with a validated screening tool such as those found in this [SAMHSA resource](https://bit.ly/4nrQnZS) (URL: bit.ly/4nrQnZS).

2

Complete the MI POSC Learning Modules.

3

Review Michigan's POSC Protocol which includes a link to the suggested template for use.

4

Check out these free [resources](https://bit.ly/3GhfVbu) (URL: bit.ly/3GhfVbu) from the National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare. They cover substance use, working with families, Plans of Safe Care and more.



For more information on implementing MI POSC Protocol in your Home Visiting Program, contact MDHHS-PlanofSafeCare@michigan.gov.