CWS/CMS
Referral Screening

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Referral Screening – CWS/CMS Procedures

Referral Screening – CWS/CMS

The referral screening process on CWS/CMS is designed to capture information regarding allegations of child abuse or neglect to meet the requirements of California's Emergency Response Protocol. The following process can be used for documentation of all incoming referrals to the child protection agency, regardless of response time or appropriateness of in person response. Details of the requirements can be found in section 31-105 of the Child Welfare Services program manual.

Learning Objectives

At the completion of this section, trainee will be able to:

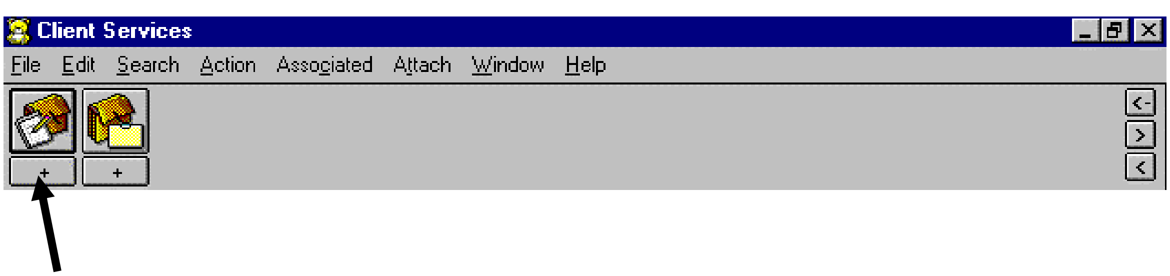
- Enter a referral on CWS/CMS according the Emergency Response Protocol.
- Search, retrieve and review child welfare history for a child and family.
- Cross report to all appropriate agencies.
- Produce a comprehensive document ready to be transferred to the investigating worker.
- Record information regarding a 'Safely Surrendered Baby' on CWS/CMS.
- Understand provision for referring cases unsuited for CWS intervention to the right agency and procedure in CWS/CMS.

STEP ONE

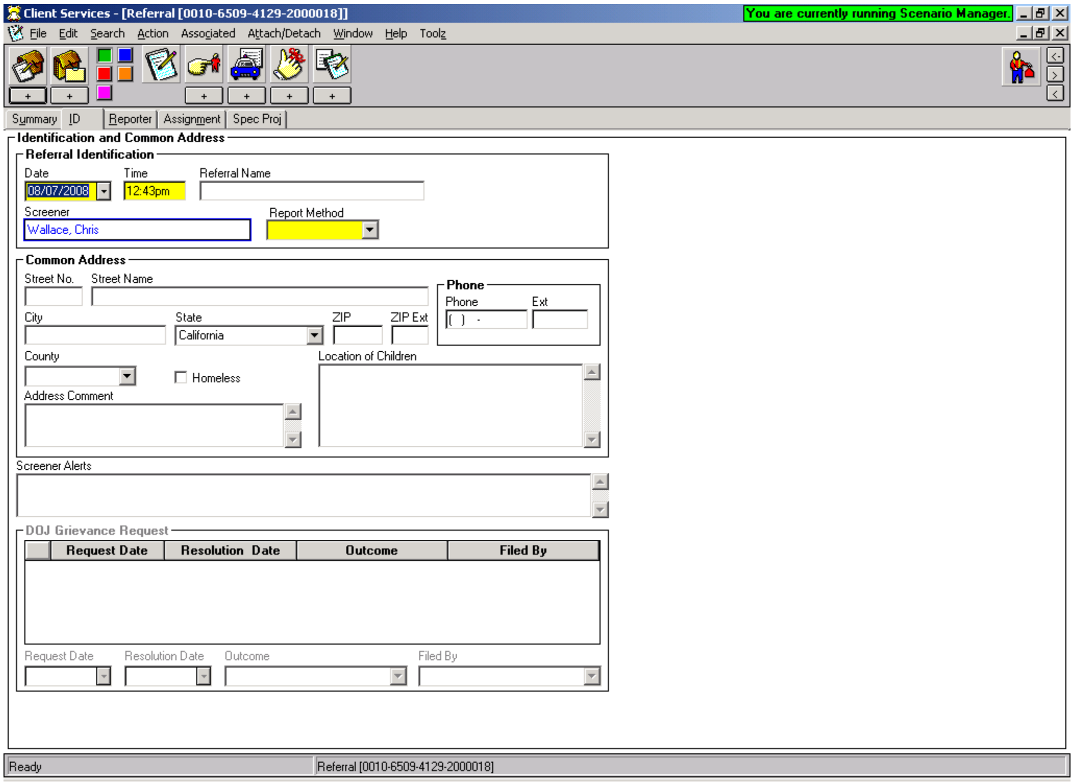
Entering A New Referral

Begin by selecting Client Services

Use the + sign to 'Create a New Referral'



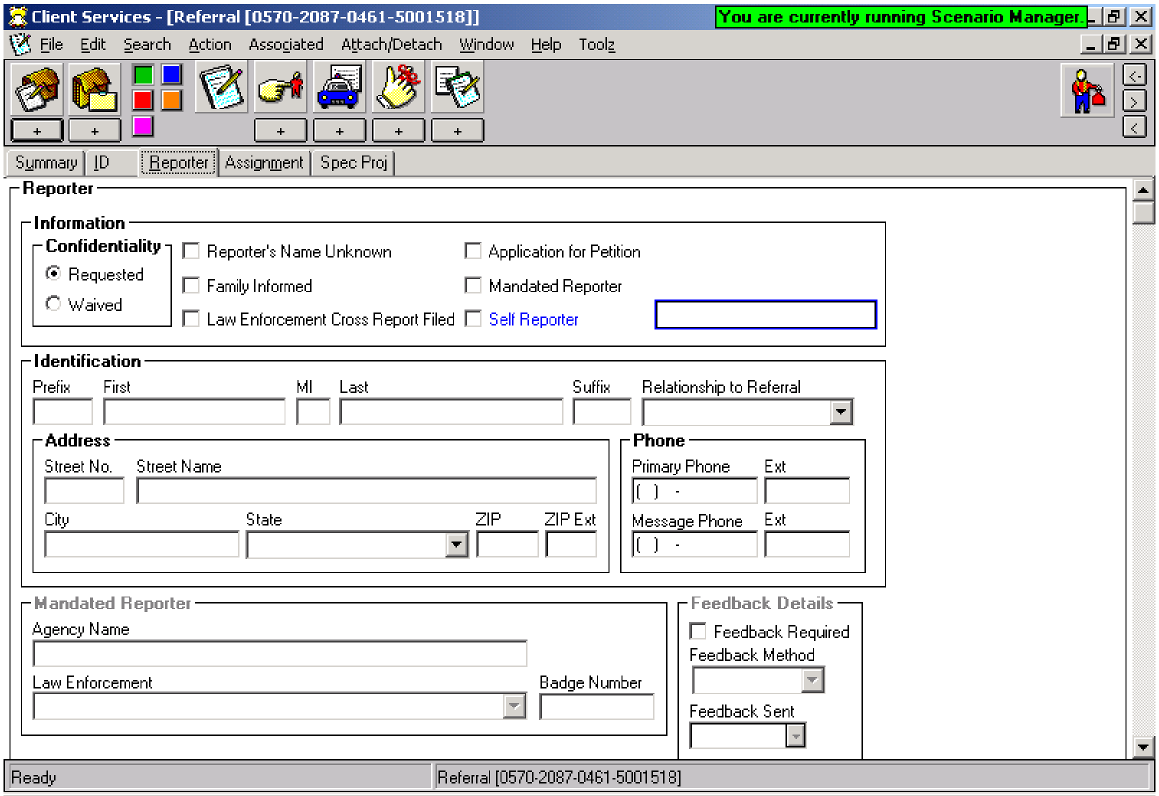
The new referral opens to the ID Page and automatically assigns a 19 digit number to it.



This page is used for basic referral identifying information.

- Date & Time Fields - enter the actual date and time the referral was reported. It automatically opens to current date/time, but can be modified.
- Referral Name - identifies the referral according to the county's naming convention. Most often, counties use the Mother's Name in referral identification.
- Screener – this field is read only, and is populated from the Assignment Page once the referral has been assigned to the screener.
- Report Method – how the incident was reported. Only the selections under the drop down menu can be used.
- Common Address – enter the primary address of the referral. Typically, this is where the children live.
- Address Comment – use this field to give additional information to assist the worker in locating the family.
- Location of Children - this field is especially important for referrals requiring an immediate response to indicate current location of the victim(s).
- Screener Alerts – this section can be used to identify areas of concern the investigator needs to know before conducting the investigation, such as, "family speaks only Spanish", or "beware of the dog in the family's yard", etc. Some counties use this section to record the details of the referral.
- DOJ Grievance Request section enables only after allegations have been concluded.

Reporter Page – complete this page with information about the person reporting the alleged abuse or neglect.

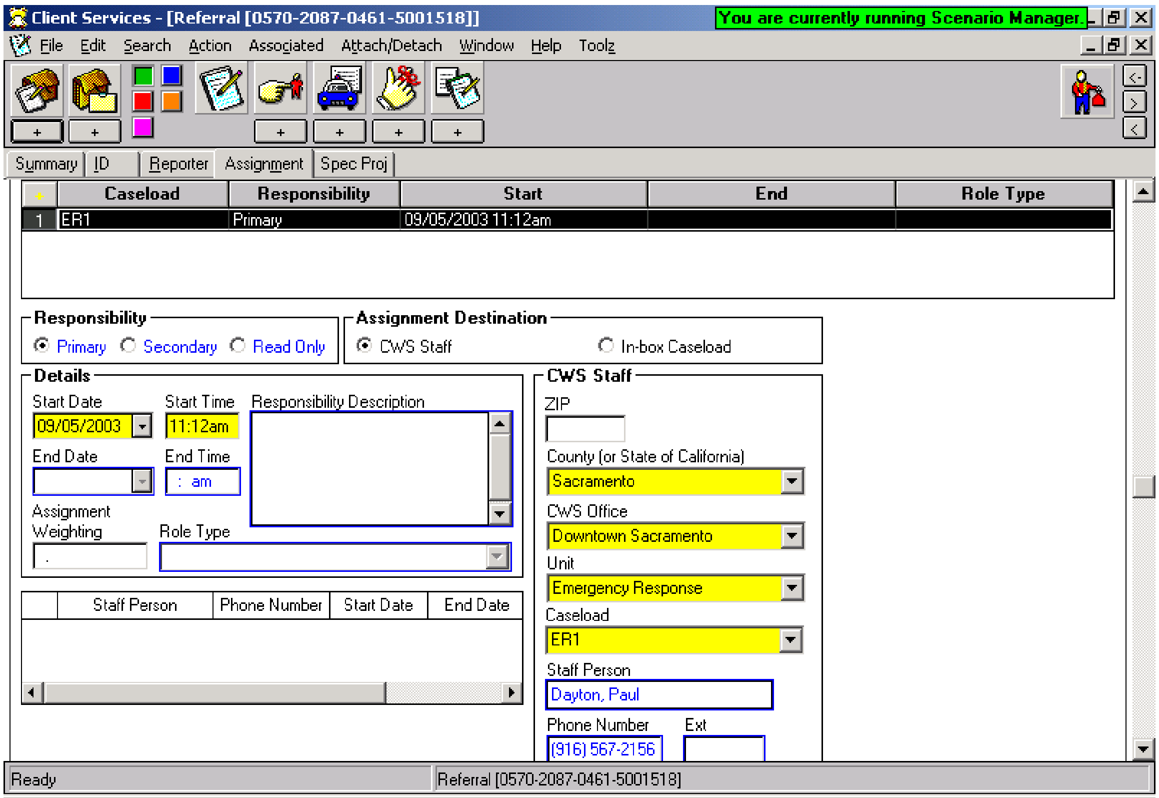


- Confidentiality – is automatically requested and afforded to any person reporting suspected abuse or neglect, but can be waived by the individual reporting.
- Check Boxes for Reporter information – any boxes that apply should be selected. If the Reporter's Name Unknown box is checked – the entire page is disabled. The Self Reporter box cannot be checked on this page – a self-reporter is a client that reports the alleged incident – this box will be checked if self-reporter is indicated in a client notebook.
  Definition of who is determined to be a Mandated Reporter can be found in the Penal Code section 11165.7(a).
- Complete the rest of the page with as much information as possible about the reporting party, including agency, address and phone number and indicating whether the mandated reporter requires feedback. *Mandated reporters may be told the results of the investigation and the action that the agency is taking with regard to the child or the family. (P.C. 11170 b (2)).*

Form Populating Tip

This page will populate the form 'Response to the Mandated Reporter' if completely filled out!

Assignment Page – this page is used to record the staff person(s) assigned the referral. As the referral moves from one worker to another (i.e., Screener to ER worker to Case Manager), a history of assignments is maintained here.



The page is activated by clicking the + sign in the upper left corner.

The first entry is always the Primary Assignment. A case or referral can only have one Primary Assignment, but can have multiple secondary assignments.

The assignment must specify the County, Office, Unit and Caseload the referral is assigned to. The individual taking the report will be the first staff person with primary assignment.

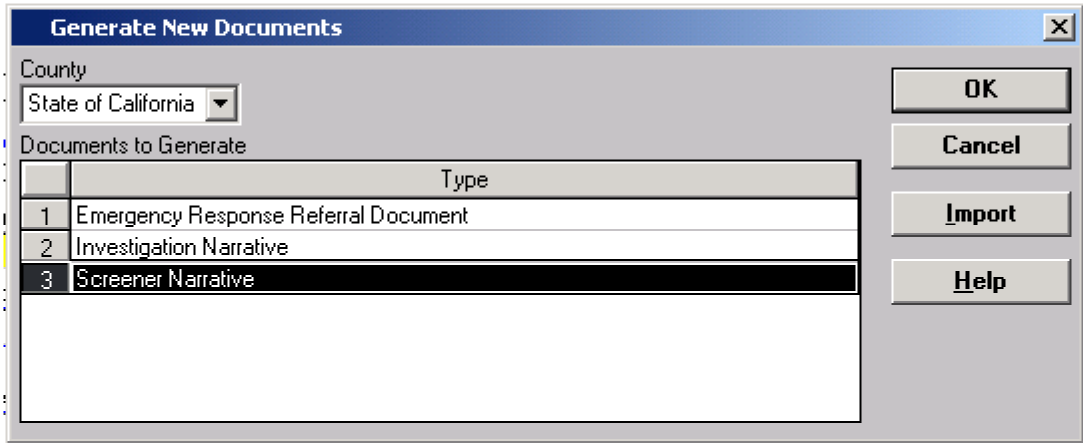
The Staff Persons name and phone number will automatically populate based on the Caseload entry. Staff person information is 'read only' and is populated from Resource Management, County Organization section, Staff Person notebook.

Use the plus+ sign to add additional assignments. If there are Secondary Assignments, the 'role type' of that person must be specified.

STEP TWO - OPTIONAL

Screener Narrative (some counties do not use this document – they use Screener Alerts section on ID page)

Use the + sign – Create New Document - Referral



Select the Screener Narrative from this dialog box, then Click OK. That will open the Screener Narrative in Microsoft Word.

SCREENER NARRATIVE

ALLEGATIONS (Who, What, Where, When, How, Who Else Knows, Why Now?) COLLECT AND RECORD INFORMATION ABOUT THE FOLLOWING RISK FACTORS:

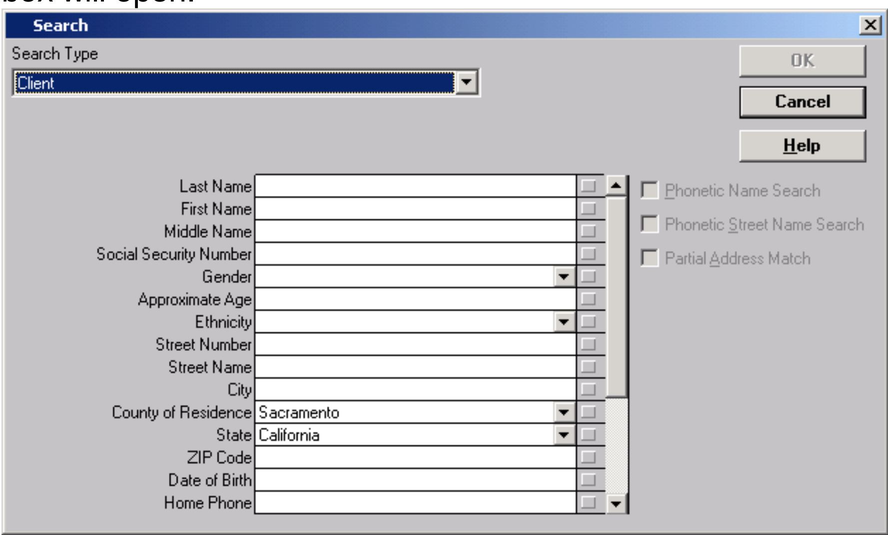
1. **PRECIPITATING INCIDENT (Severity, frequency; location and description of injury; history of abuse)**
2. **CHILD CHARACTERISTICS (Age, vulnerability, special circumstances; perpetrator's access; behavior, interaction with caretakers, sibling and peers)**
3. **CARETAKER CHARACTERISTICS (Capacity for child care; interaction with children, other caretakers; skill, knowledge; substance abuse, criminal behavior, mental health)**
4. **FAMILY FACTORS (Relationships, support systems; history of abuse; presence of parent substitute; environmental conditions; family strengths)**
5. **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE/ABUSE FACTORS (Safety risks; pattern of assaults on, threats to, and/or stalking of household members; forced social isolation or economic deprivation; weapons present in the home and used as a threat; prior law enforcement or emergency medical response(s); history of domestic violence/abuse; medical neglect; violation of restraining orders; mental health issues; other risk factors)**

The Screener Narrative is a Microsoft Word document that opens with the above text box reminding screener of what information should be obtained for the referral screening process. Complete a narrative of the incident here. All Word tools can be utilized, ie., Spell Check, Thesaurus, etc. SAVE, PRINT, CLOSE or MINIMIZE WORD.

STEP THREE
Searching for Clients in the Statewide Database

This process serves two important functions in the referral process. First, searching the statewide database for clients is essential in determining whether there is a history of abuse or neglect for the family. Second, if the client's are known to the statewide database, they need not be created again, just attached to the referral in progress. That will attach all prior history as well.

In the top menu bar, use the Search, then Start Search command. The following box will open.

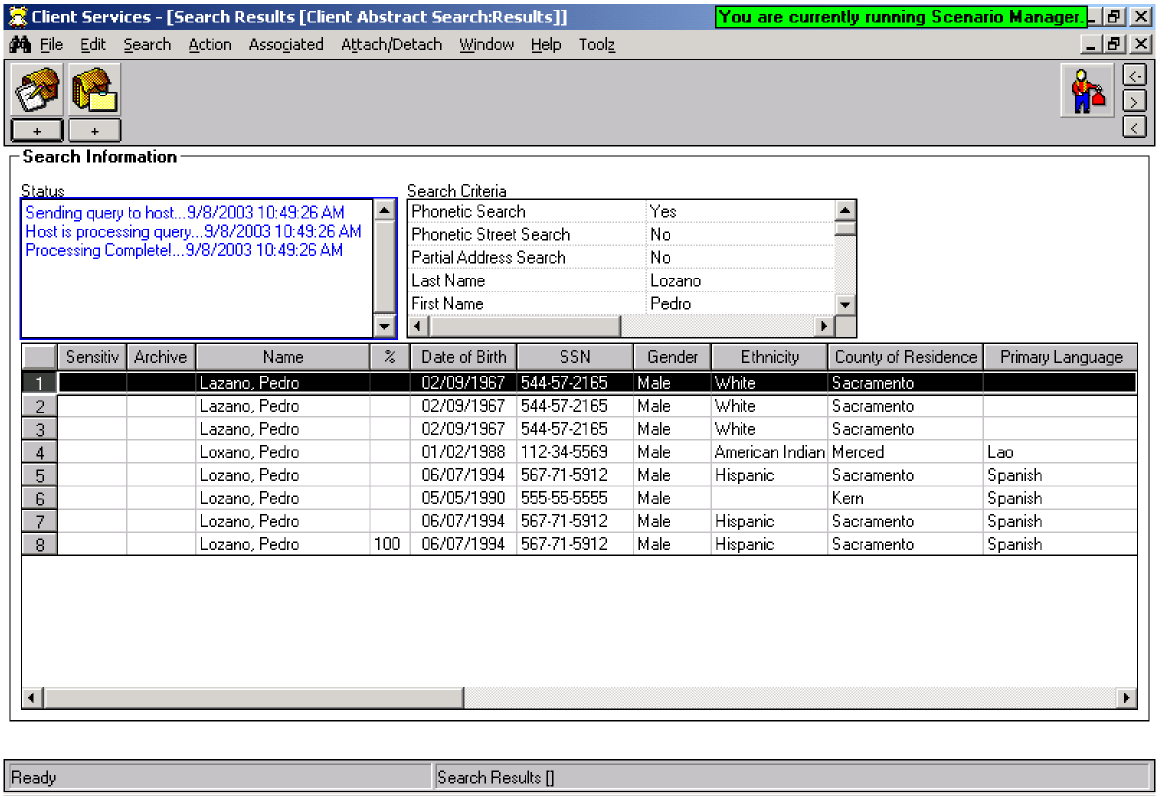


When searching for clients, it is best to use minimal criteria to begin with. A good way to start is to enter the client's first and last name, gender and approximate age. Additional pieces of information can be used to narrow the search. The reason more specific pieces of data on a client should not be used, i.e., social security number, ethnicity, is because the computer will search for someone that matches that criteria exactly. If the client had not been entered previously with that exact information, you may miss locating them. When searching, it is best not to select the county of residence, because you are interested in determining statewide history on the client. It is best to search for all clients individually. Using the 'phonetic name search' check box will allow the capability of finding sound alikes, which is helpful if you are unsure of the spelling.

Search Tips

- When using approximate age – searching for a child 12 years or younger, the database will include plus/minus 2 years.
- When using approximate age – searching for a child 13 years or older, the database will include plus/minus 5 years.
- Using phonetic searches will return different spellings, but similar pronunciations
- Entering less search criteria is best to start. Add additional pieces one by one to narrow the search.

The Search Result screen will include all potential client matches, with a percentage of how closely the client matched your search criteria.


Client Services - [Search Results [Client Abstract Search:Results]]

You are currently running Scenario Manager.

File Edit Search Action Associated Attach/Detach Window Help Tools

Search Information

Status

Sending query to host...9/8/2003 10:49:26 AM
Host is processing query...9/8/2003 10:49:26 AM
Processing Complete!...9/8/2003 10:49:26 AM

Search Criteria

Phonetic Search	Yes
Phonetic Street Search	No
Partial Address Search	No
Last Name	Lozano
First Name	Pedro

	Sensitiv	Archive	Name	%	Date of Birth	SSN	Gender	Ethnicity	County of Residence	Primary Language
1			Lazano, Pedro		02/09/1967	544-57-2165	Male	White	Sacramento	
2			Lazano, Pedro		02/09/1967	544-57-2165	Male	White	Sacramento	
3			Lazano, Pedro		02/09/1967	544-57-2165	Male	White	Sacramento	
4			Loxano, Pedro		01/02/1988	112-34-5569	Male	American Indian	Merced	Lao
5			Lozano, Pedro		06/07/1994	567-71-5912	Male	Hispanic	Sacramento	Spanish
6			Lozano, Pedro		05/05/1990	555-55-5555	Male		Kern	Spanish
7			Lozano, Pedro		06/07/1994	567-71-5912	Male	Hispanic	Sacramento	Spanish
8			Lozano, Pedro	100	06/07/1994	567-71-5912	Male	Hispanic	Sacramento	Spanish

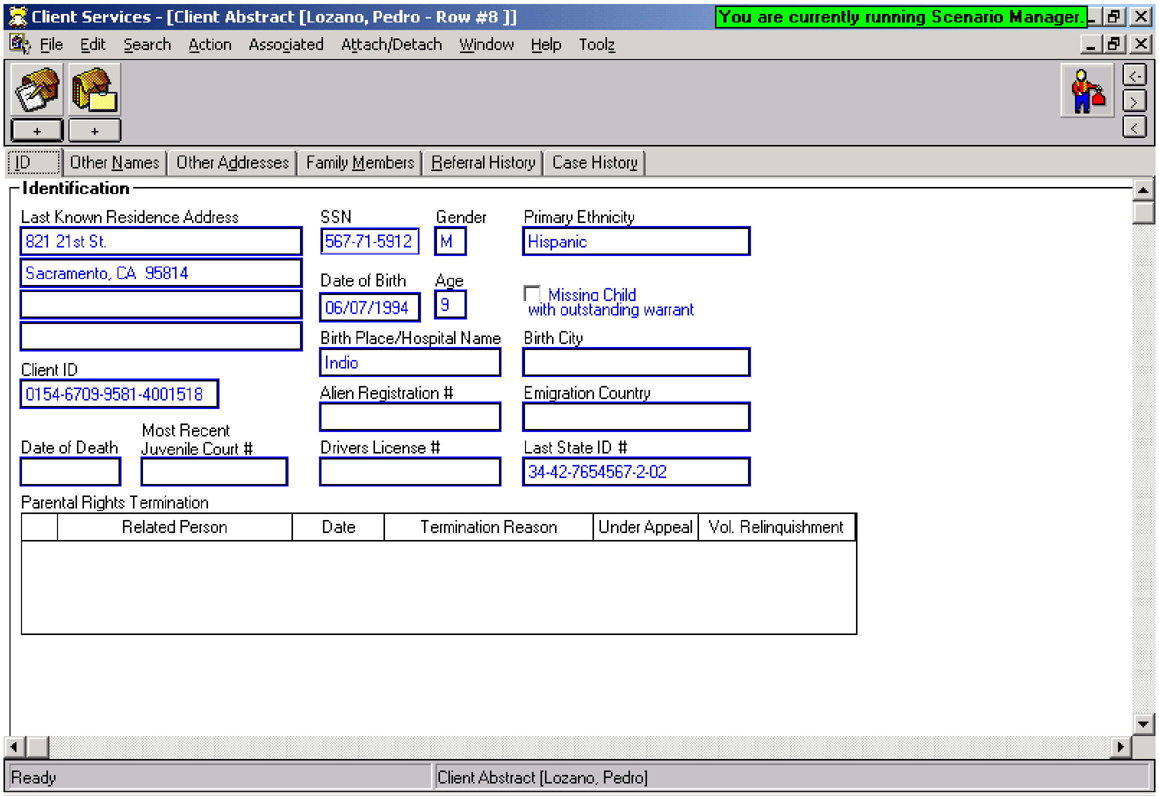
Ready | Search Results []

Search Results

- If search results indicate 'Maximum Hits Exceeded', use the 'Search Again' selection under the Search command in the menu bar.
- Will locate AKA's if previously entered on the Names page in the Client notebook. AKA's are cross-referenced with any names used by the client.
- Clients marked as 'Sealed' do not display in the search results unless you have 'Sealed' privilege.
- Clients marked as 'Sensitive' will display in the search results, but will be unable to be opened if you don't have 'Sensitive' privilege. You will not be able to open the sensitive client's abstract if it belongs to another county.

Open the client abstract for further review to determine more positively that it is the client you are looking for. Double click to open.

The ‘Client Abstract’ is a snapshot of the client with limited information.



Id Page – is populated with general identifying information of the client.

Other Names Page – other names the client uses will be displayed here only if they have been recorded on the Names page of the Client Notebook.

Other Addresses – any and all prior addresses of the client will appear here.

Family Members – this page displays family members of the identified client. Individuals listed here are populated from the Related Clients page of the Client Notebook.

Referral History – this page will briefly list the client’s past involvement with child welfare services. Each referral will be listed with allegations, conclusions and dispositions of each.

Case History – this page will indicate whether a case is open or had been open at one time for a child. The type of program the client was involved in will be listed here, i.e., Family Reunification, Family Maintenance, Permanency Planning. The assigned worker’s name and phone number will also display here.

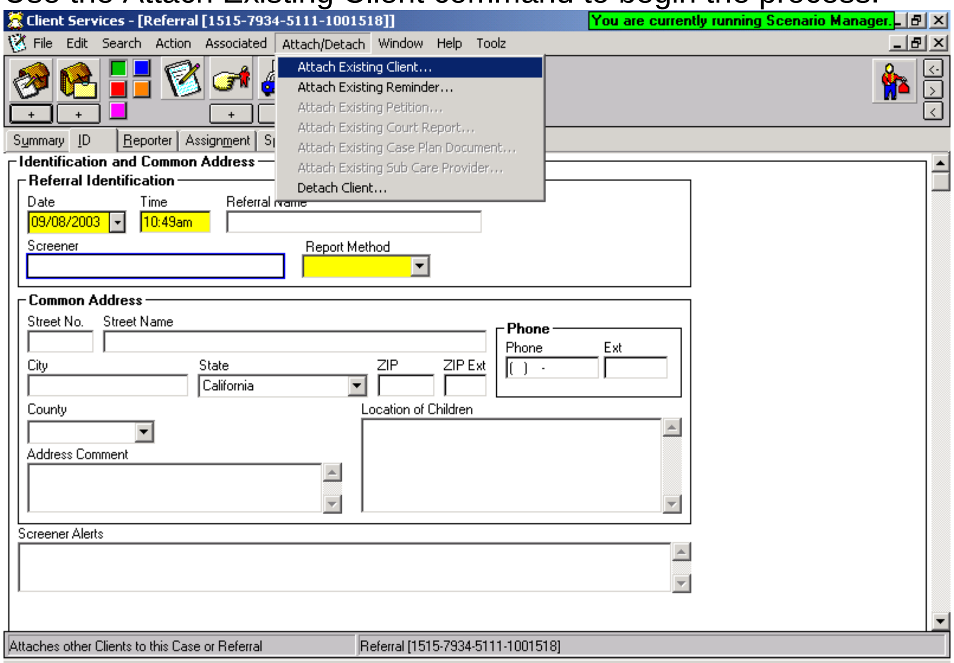
STEP FOUR

Attaching Clients to your Referral

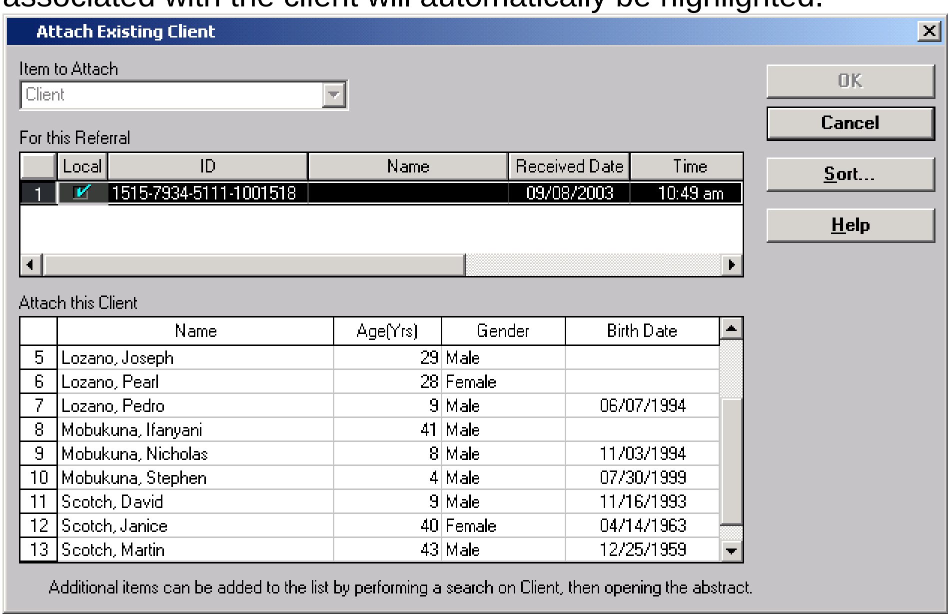
Once you have found the clients in the statewide database, you need to Attach them to your referral. This attaches all the child welfare history of the client and will make sure that all forms, reports and documents reflect that history.

The referral you are working on must be 'in focus' in order to use the Attach functionality.

Use the Attach Existing Client command to begin the process.

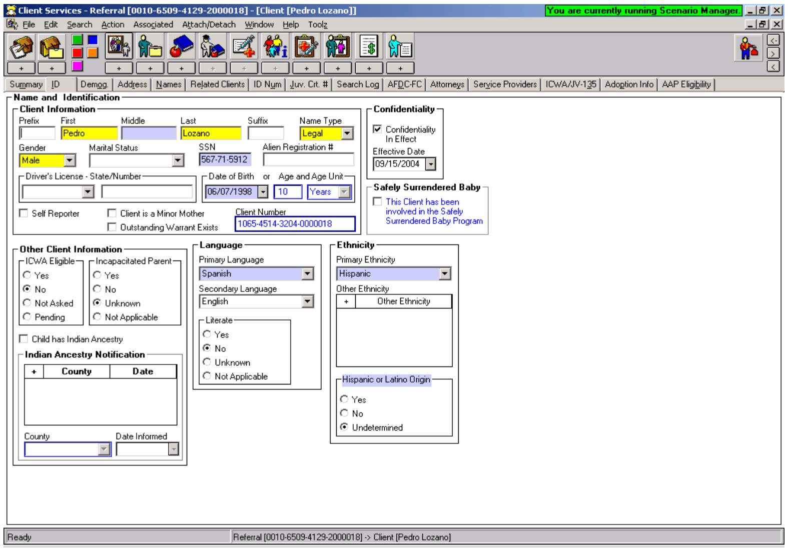


You will now be able to highlight the clients you wish to attach. All persons associated with the client will automatically be highlighted.

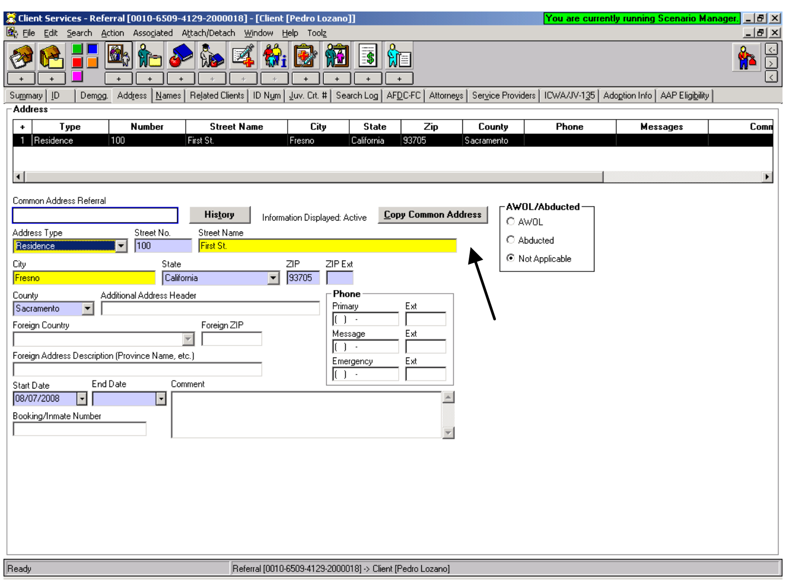


Once clients have been attached, review and update the following pages in the Client notebook.

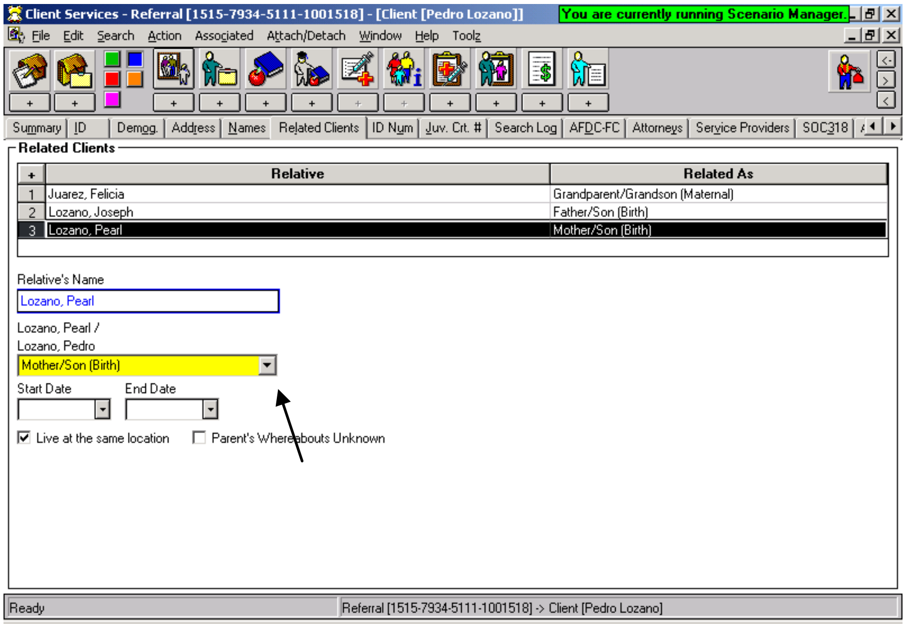
Open the ‘Existing Client’ and select one of the clients to open.



ID page – Review and update this page with information gathered from the reporting party.



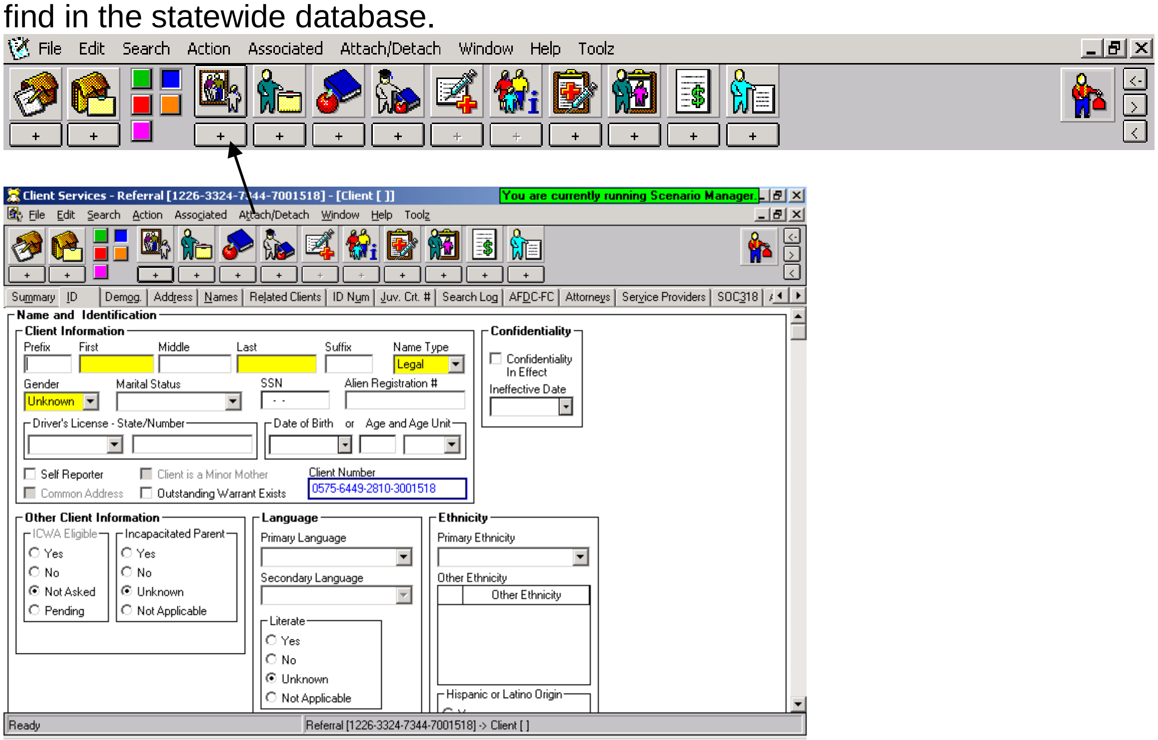
Address page – Be sure to complete this page for each client – use the Copy Common Address button to copy address from ID page of the referral if appropriate– be sure to adjust the Address Type to Residence. If address is not the same as common address – use the + plus sign to add the address.



Related Clients Page – be sure this page accurately reflects each persons relationship to one another and whether or not they live together.

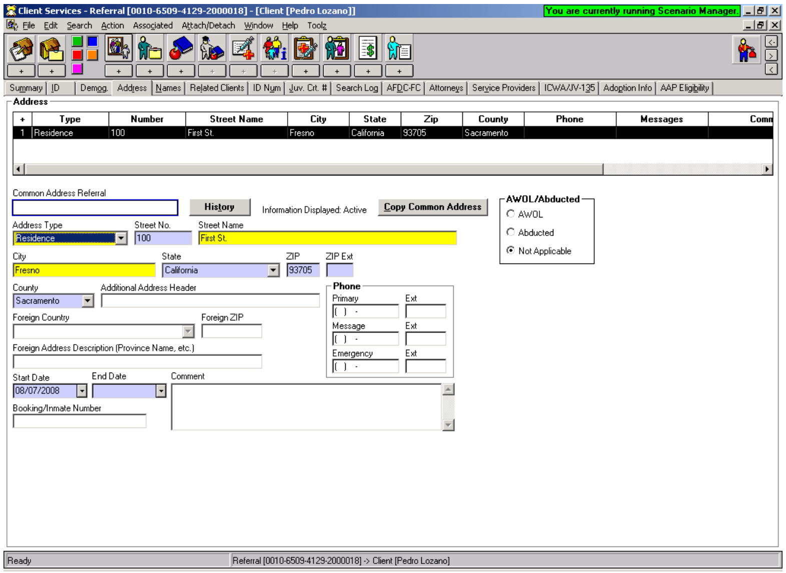
STEP FIVE

Use the 'Create New Client' function (plus + sign) to add any clients you did not find in the statewide database.

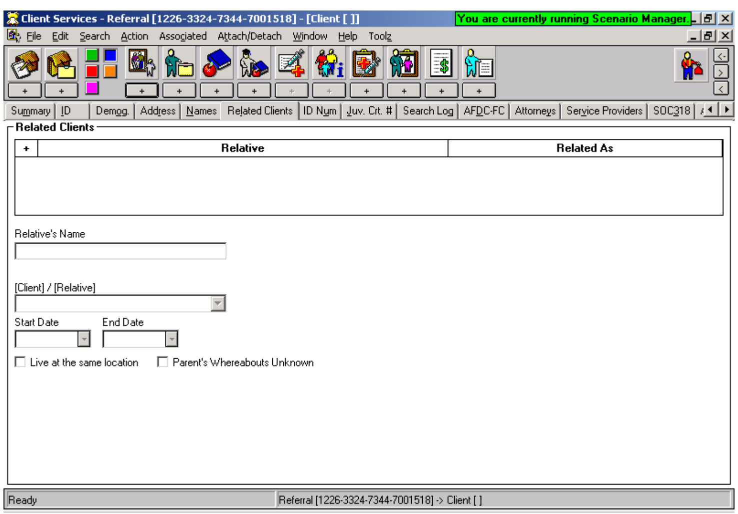


ID Page

Create a new client and complete the ID page with as much information as possible. Be sure to indicate the gender of the client, if it is left at 'unknown', you will not be able to get approval of the referral. If the date of birth is unknown, be sure to include an approximate age. This is the only way that computer can distinguish between adults and children.



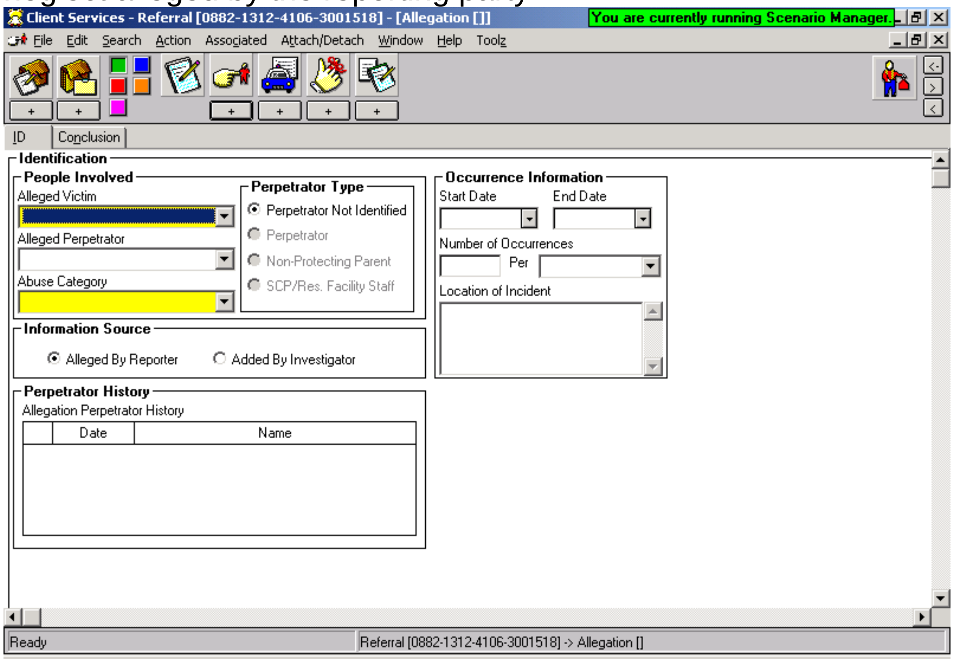
Address page – Be sure to complete this page for each client – use the Copy Common Address button to copy address from ID page of the referral if appropriate– be sure to adjust the Address Type to Residence. If address is not the same as common address – use the + plus sign to add the address.



Related Clients Page – use the plus + sign to activate the page, select the clients to relate. Complete the relationship field to reflect how each person is related to one another. It is critical that this page be completely accurately because it populates many of the forms, reports and documents in CWS/CMS.

STEP SIX
Record the Allegations

Use the ‘Create New Allegation’ notebook to record the allegations of abuse or neglect alleged by the reporting party.



Each allegation must be recorded separately for each child. Use the plus + sign to begin each allegation.

Alleged Victim - All children’s names will be available under this drop down menu. If a child’s name is missing, check that child’s client notebook. If gender has not been completed, or the age of the child, their name will not appear here.

Alleged Perpetrator - All other clients will appear under this menu. If perpetrator’s name is unknown, leave this field blank. If perpetrator’s name is known, select under the menu and use the appropriate identifier: Perpetrator, Non Protecting Parent, or SCP/Res. Facility Staff. *Note: if the perpetrator is a substitute care provider (foster parent) for the victim or staff at a residential facility, it is critical that it be documented as such here in order to meet the CFSR – Safety Outcome Measure S2.1.*

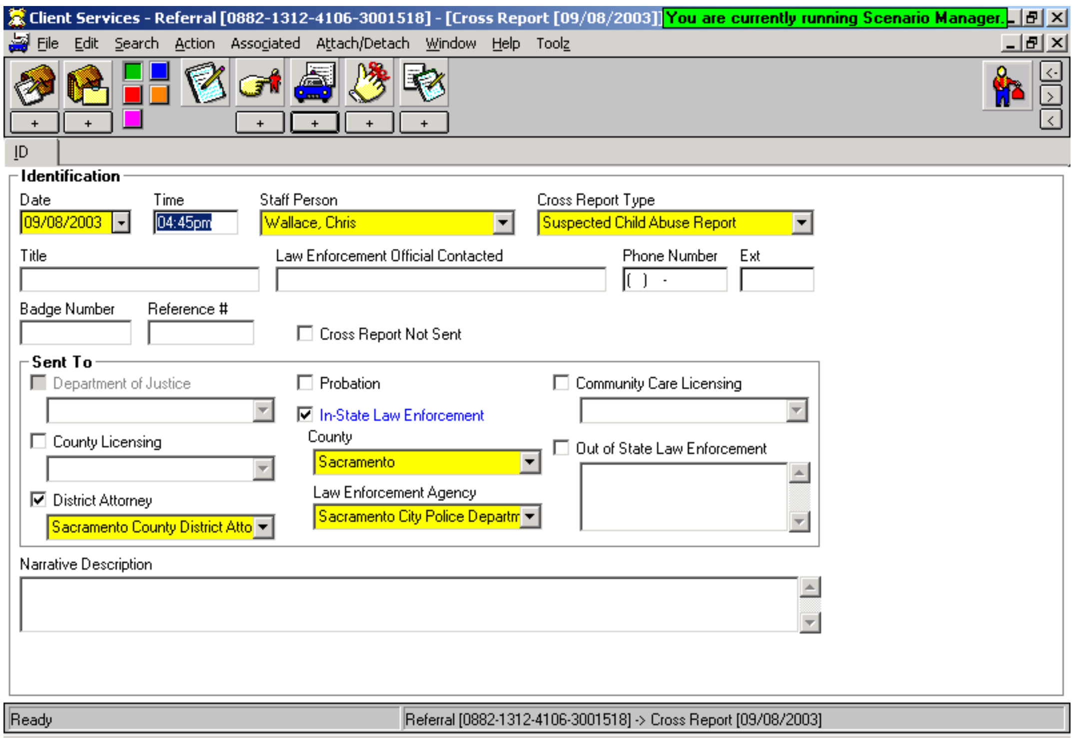
Abuse Category -Select the category of abuse indicated. For definitions of each, refer to the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act – PC 11165 et seq. If multiple children live in the home, but have not been named a victim, use the ‘At Risk, Sibling Abused’ allegation for each. ‘Substantial Risk’ was designed to allow the provision of voluntary and/or preventative services and should only be used after the completion of an investigation and not at Intake (hotline). For more information for the use of this allegation, see ACL 07-52, dated 12/21/07.

Occurrence Information – enter if known.

STEP SEVEN
Cross Reporting Requirements

A cross report must be made within 36 hours of receiving the information to the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the case, to the agency responsible for investigation of cases under section 300 of the W & I code, and to the District Attorney's office for every known or suspected instance of child abuse or neglect as defined in Section 11166(a) of the Penal Code. All allegations except General Neglect or Substantial Risk require cross reporting to take place.

Use the plus + sign to 'Create New Cross Report':



Record the date and time the cross report was completed.

Select the 'Suspected Child Abuse Report' as the type of report.
If the cross report was completed by phone, record the name, title, badge and phone numbers of the individual spoken to and check the box 'cross report not sent'.

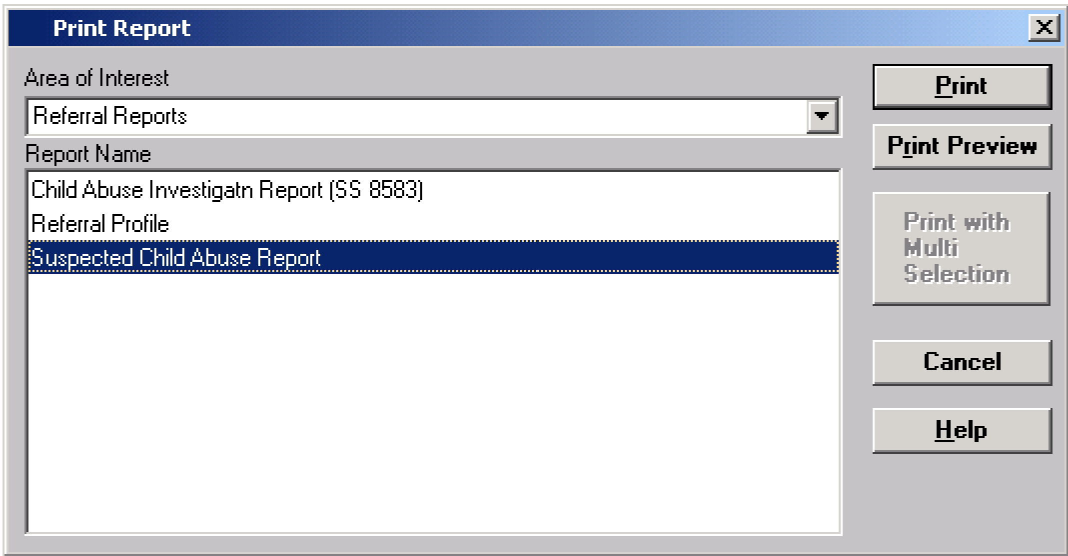
If Cross Report is to be sent, check the box for each agency sent to, and select that agency under the drop down menu.

Additional narrative can be recorded in the description box at the bottom of the screen.

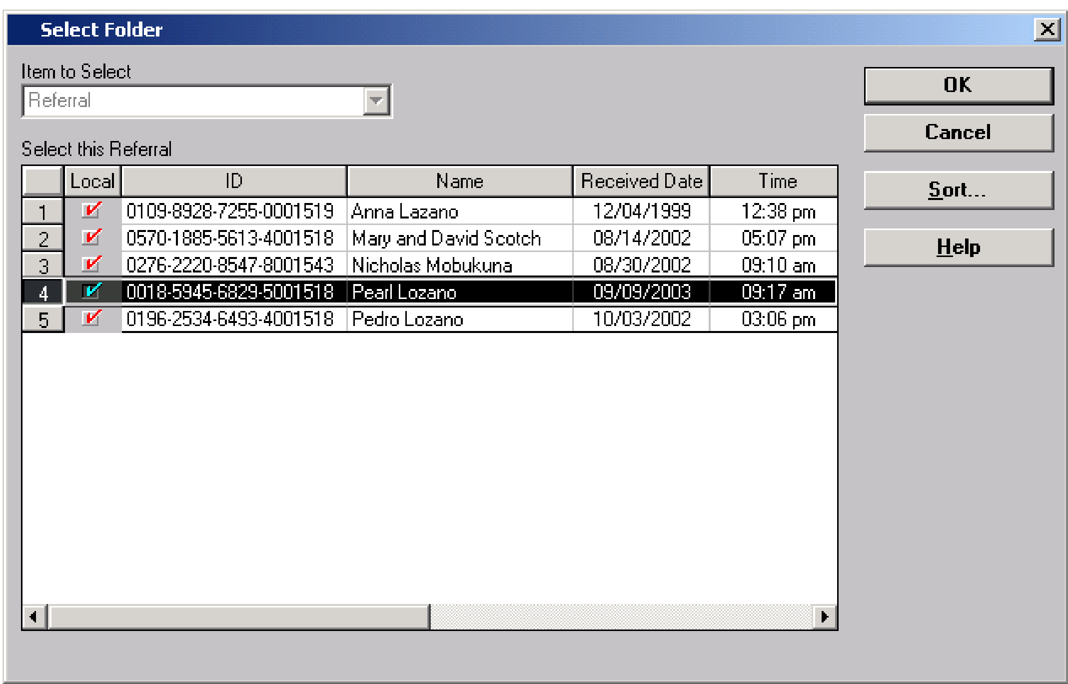
Producing the Cross Report Document

FILE
PRINT REPORT

Select the Suspected Child Abuse Report
Print Preview (this will allow you to review the report for accuracy before printing).

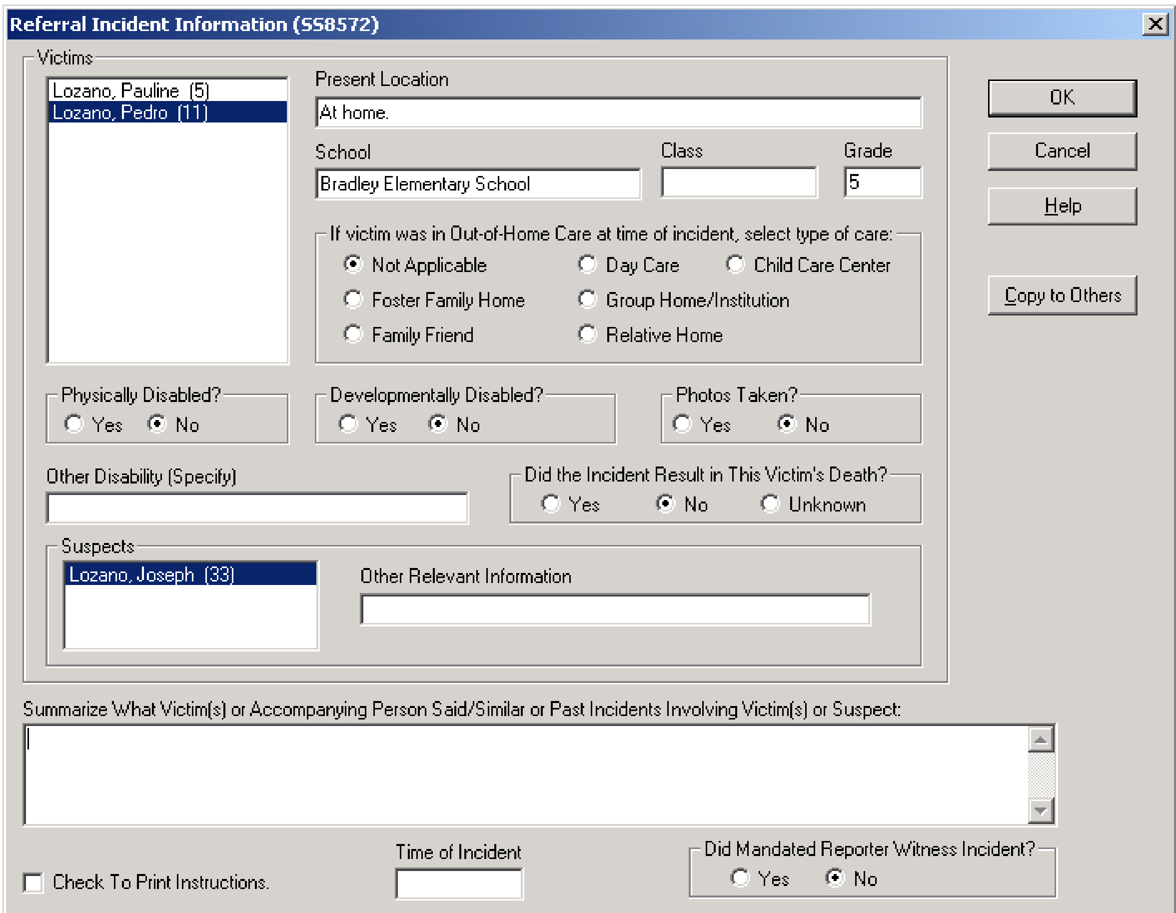


Select the referral you are printing the report for.



Complete the dialog box with additional information related to the incident and the history of similar incidents.

Highlight each child's name, then complete the dialogue box with information specific to child. If the information is the same for each child, you can use the 'Copy to Others' command to copy the same details for all children.

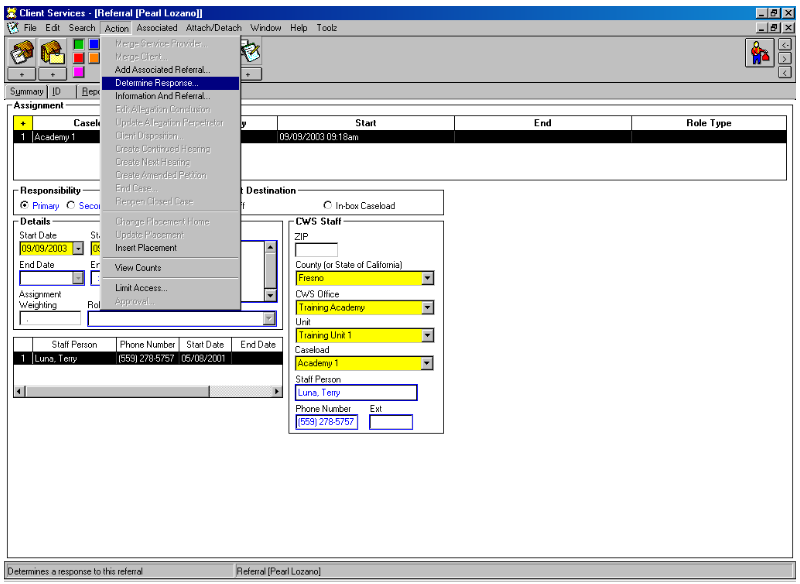


After completing the box, select OK, and the Cross Report will be generated. It will be fully populated, and a copy will be produced for each agency that was checked on the Cross Report notebook page.

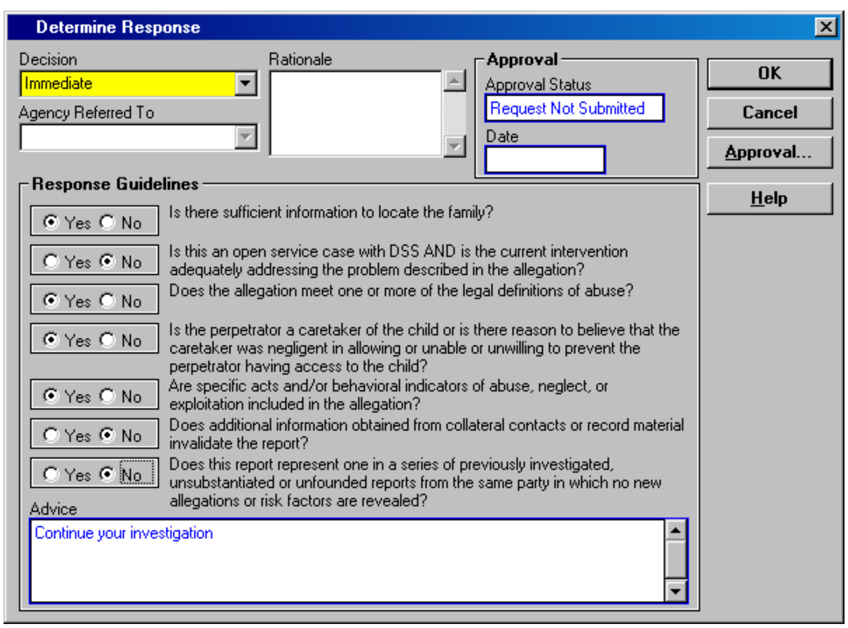
After verifying the report for accuracy, Print and Close. This document will not be saved, but can be reproduced at any time with the same steps.

STEP EIGHT
Determine the Response Time of the Referral

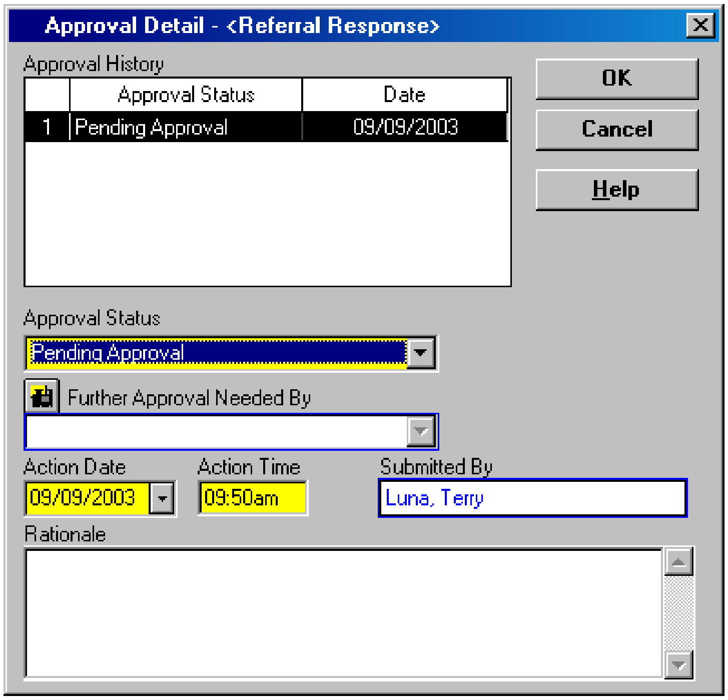
Under the **ACTION** menu,
Select **Determine Response**



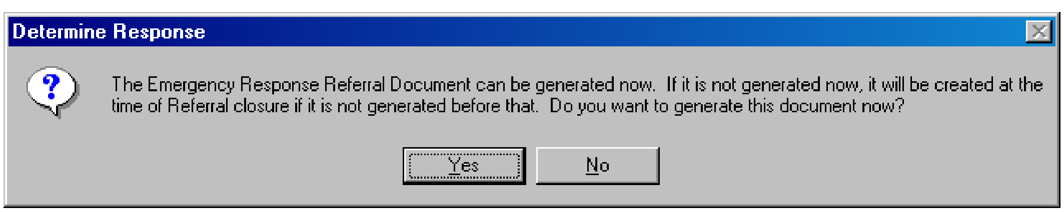
The decision whether or not an in-person investigation is necessary shall include consideration of the following factors:
Policy & Procedural Manual 31-105.115
Complete the dialog box as appropriate.
Decision: Selections include 'Immediate', 3 Day, 5 Day, 10 Day and 'Evaluate Out'. (3 & 5 Day Response times are rarely used).
If 'Evaluate Out' is selected, you must enter a rationale discussing why no in person response is appropriate.



Use the Approval button to bring up the dialog box to request approval for the response time you have selected. Select Pending Approval in the Approval Status box, then Click OK.



Once you ask for Pending Approval, you will be prompted to generate the Emergency Response Referral Document. This is the document that is a compilation of the entire referral, including referral history, which is then handed over to the investigating worker. Choose Yes to generate the document.



Review the document for accuracy. This is a protected document and cannot be changed. The document is populated from the screens previously completed. If changes need to be made, the document must be deleted, the screens where the originating information was entered must be corrected, then the document can be re-generated.

SAVE TO THE DATABASE

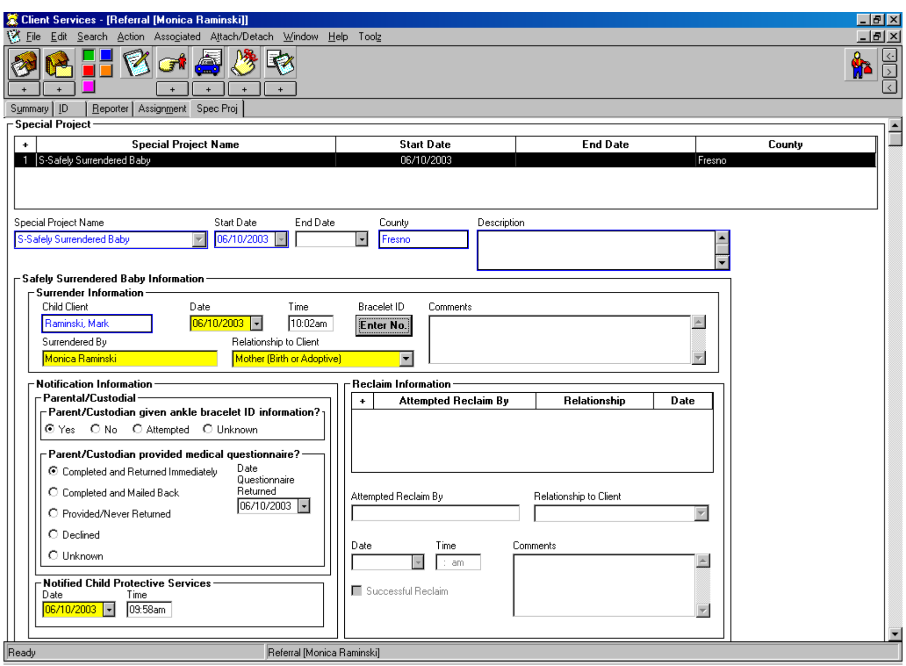
Senate Bill 1368 Safe Haven Law – Commonly known as California Safely Surrendered Baby Law

On January 1, 2001, California became one of a dozen states to enact a new law that is intended to provide for the health and safety of unwanted newborn children. The law states "that no parent or other person who has lawful custody of a minor child 72 hours old or younger may be prosecuted for child abandonment if he or she voluntarily surrenders physical custody of the child to a designated employee at a public or private hospital emergency room or other location designated by the county board of supervisors." No later than 48 hours after taking custody of an abandoned child, the person taking custody is required to notify the county agency responsible for giving child welfare services under W & I Code Section 16501.

Once the child welfare services agency receives notification of a surrendered newborn, a referral must be entered into the CWS/CMS system. The referral should be entered in the system in the usual way with as much information as provided through **STEP SIX**. On Step 6, which is the Allegation page, record the Allegation as 'Caretaker Absence'.

Insert **STEP SIX-A**:

Make sure the referral is in focus, by clicking on the 'Existing Referral' notebook:

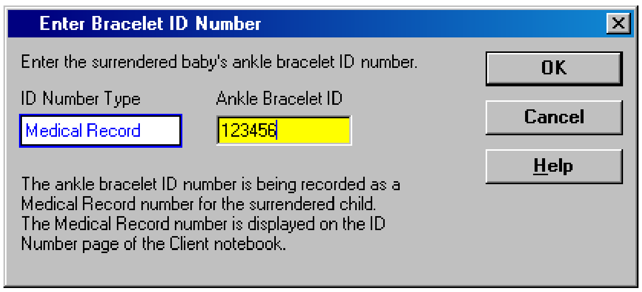


On the Special Projects page, use the plus + sign in the left corner to begin.

Select S-Safely Surrendered Baby under the Special Project name field.

Then the screen will change to include the required information on a surrendered newborn.
Complete the screen with the information required regarding the person who surrendered the child if known, along with the notification information.

Use the **ENTER** button to record the Bracelet ID number that the child was given at the surrender site.



That ID number will be populated on to the child's Client Notebook, on the ID Num Page.

Note: The law allows for at least 14 days during which the mother can change her mind and reclaim her baby. That information must be recorded on the Special Projects page of the Referral.

SAVE TO DATABASE

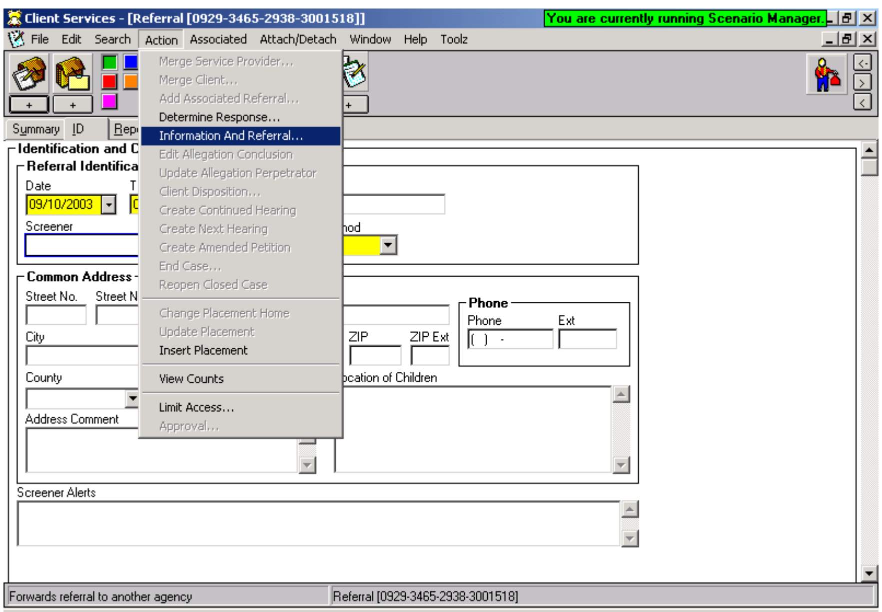
Information and Referral

When a report is made that does not fall within the purview of CWS and is not recorded as a referral (an incident of alleged abuse or neglect), but is screened and referred to other agencies for potential services, it is reported as an 'Information & Referral'.

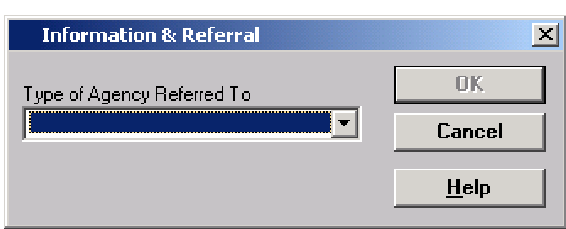
To record an I & R in CWS/CMS:

Begin a New Referral – using the plus + sign under the referral folder.
Then,

ACTION
Select Information & Referral



This dialog box will appear to allow you to select the agency you referred the client to. You can also select 'Entered in Error' if a mistake has been made.



A monthly report can be produced each month that reflects the activity of screeners in relation to screening calls that are unrelated to direct child welfare services issues.