CONNECTIONS Bulletin

Child Fatality Reporting Reminders

Along with the normal safety assessments within CONNECTIONS, investigations of a child fatality also require a 24-hour and 30-day fatality report. These reports are required to be submitted **and approved** within those time frames.

24-Hour and 30-Day Fatality Reports and Duplicate Reports

A fatality report **can** be made a duplicate/consolidated by the local district *if* both reports contain the DOA/Fatality allegation for the same subject and child.

However, if either the 24-hour and/or 30-day fatality report has been started in the subsequent fatality report, you cannot consolidate this with the initial report. Because of this, we recommend only completing these reports on the initial report if you plan on consolidating.

For more details on this and consolidating duplicate CPS investigations in general, consult the CONNECTIONS tip sheet *Consolidating Duplicate CPS Investigation or FAR Stages*. This, and other tip sheets, can be found on CONNECTIONS intranet site, (http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/) or within the Helpful Info tab in CONNECTIONS (more on that below).

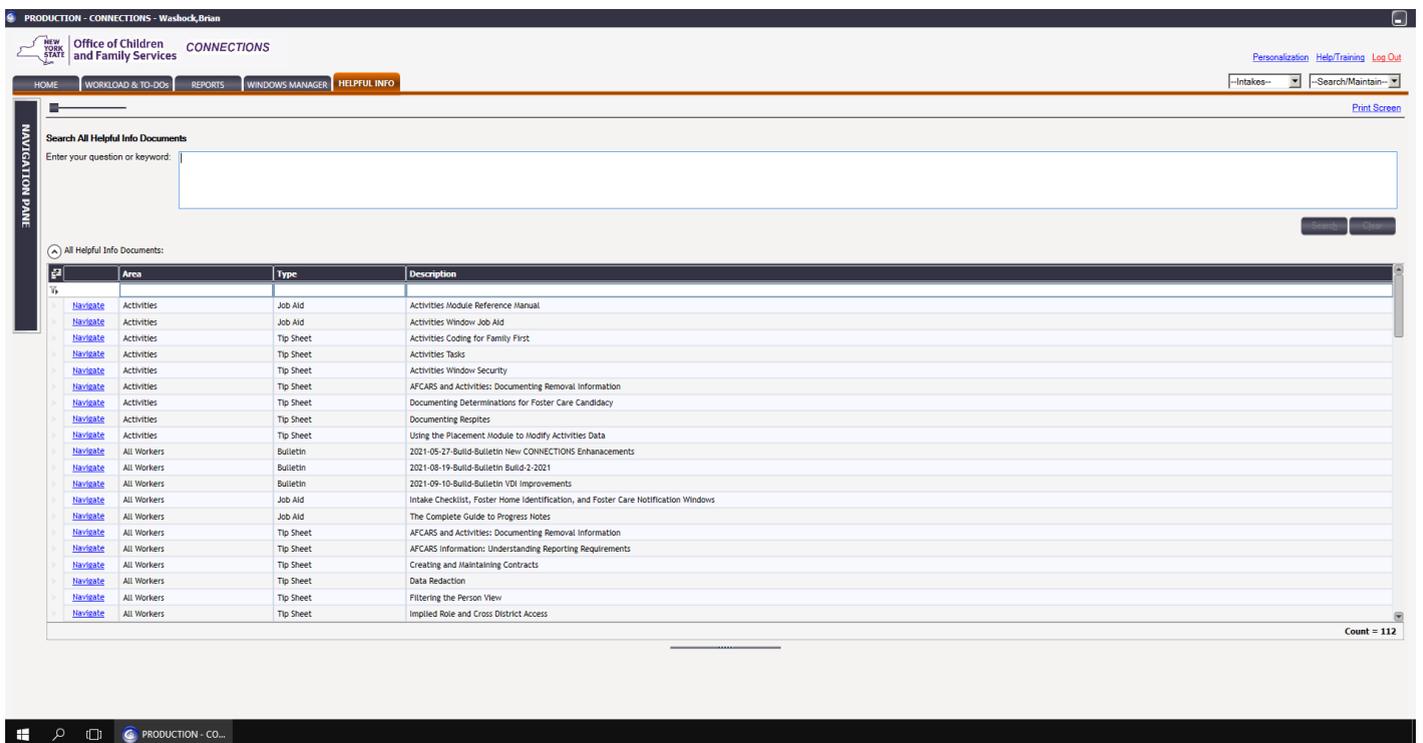### Entering Date of Death (DOD) in CONNECTIONS

Unfortunately, there are times when a child dies while on an open CPS or services case. When abuse or neglect is suspected, a call should be made to the SCR. In other circumstances, a caseworker should enter a date of death (DOD) into CONNECTIONS on the child's Person Detail screen.

The addition of the DOD is important as it provides a notification to OCFS' child fatality review team of the child's death by an interface between CONNECTIONS and their internal systems.

The OCFS Child Fatality Review Unit is available for assistance with any fatality report related questions (contact info).

CONNECTIONS Helpful Info

As stated above, CONNECTIONS tip sheets are also found within the Helpful Info tab in CONNECTIONS. Going forward, we will also be adding Build Bulletins (such as this one).

Build 2 of 2021 introduced new searchability functionality within this screen. Searches within this tab will not only search the name of the document, but also the content! *(For example, if you search the word "fatality," you will see the tip sheet referenced above).*

The Connections Team is here to help!

Resources

- As always, **CONNECTIONS Implementation Staff** will be available to offer on-site support as necessary. A Contact list of each district and agency's assigned implementation specialist can be found on the CONNECTIONS Intranet and Internet pages.

- **ITS Service Desk—844-891-1786** *or* **fixit@its.ny.gov**

Questions, Comments or Suggestions

- Email Us: Connectionsi@ocfs.ny.gov

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