

The Difference Between a CAPTA Notification and a DCF Report

	CAPTA Notification	DCF Report	Family Care Plan
What?	CAPTA is the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act. This policy requires states to submit a notification when an infant is born substance exposed.	A DCF report is a report made by a mandated reporter when abuse or neglect of a child is suspected.	A Family Care Plan is a document that provides a roadmap of supports for the birthing person, baby, and family.
Who?	Only hospital providers can submit a CAPTA notification	All mandated reporters can submit a DCF report	Birthing people who use substances during their pregnancy should have a Family Care Plan developed in the event of a CAPTA notification
When?	CAPTA notifications are submitted at the time of birth, when the infant has been born exposed to substances of concern	A DCF report is submitted when abuse or neglect is suspected. Prenatal substance exposure alone is not grounds to substantiate abuse and neglect.	The Family Care Plan should be developed before the time of delivery
Where?	These notifications are submitted through the CAPTA Portal, which is managed by DCF	A DCF Report is submitted thorough the Careline. If you are a hospital provider submitting a CAPTA notification, the CAPTA portal will also allow you to concurrently submit a DCF report (if warranted).	A FCP can be completed with the virtual tool or the paper template on SEPI - CT's website. Ensure the birthing person has their own copy. At the discretion of birthing person, it is recommended that a copy be shared with their provider and birthing hospital.
Why?	This is a legislative mandate which is required by the state of Connecticut Data Collection Decrease prenatal substance exposures Mitigate Risks Enhancement of state resources	Mandated reporter requirements	A completed Family Care Plan should be verified to submit a CAPTA notification.