

Office of the Child Advocate

To: Child Death Investigators

From: Child Fatality Review Division Staff, Office of the Child Advocate

Date: July 14, 2011

Re: SUIDI Doll distribution

Congratulations!

As a result of your commitment to improve death scene investigations in your community, you are receiving the enclosed Sudden Unexpected Infant Death Investigation (SUIDI) Doll. Use of the doll will enhance your infant death scene re-enactments and witness/caregiver interviews, particularly when used in conjunction with video-taping procedures. This doll should be used for any unexpected and/or unexplained infant deaths to have the witness(es) describe and re-create the infant's location and/or body position for you. The doll is gender and race-neutral, to help reduce the anxiety that many caregivers may feel when discussing the loss of their infant. A flash drive is enclosed for your reference. This flash drive includes a **training video** and **care instructions** describing best practices for using the doll with caregivers and witnesses on scene; as well as care that will preserve your doll for future use.

Funding for this SUIDI Doll was provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through a grant awarded to the Georgia Child Fatality Review (CFR) Division of the Office of the Child Advocate to support statewide infant death investigation, review, and reporting. The grant period is from August 2009 to July 2012. In addition to providing scene re-enactment dolls, Georgia CFR will also use these grant funds to provide additional trainings and support for local CFR committees. We encourage you to partner with your local coroner, law enforcement, DFCS, and District Attorney's office in responding to unexpected infant deaths. In order to retain this grant, Georgia CFR will be accountable to the CDC on a quarterly basis for deliverables. To that end, we need your cooperation with our data and evaluation gathering efforts.

When CFR becomes aware of any infant deaths in your county, we will send you a **preliminary pathology report** from GBI that briefly explains the circumstances of death, to assist you in your timely review and reporting activities. All infant deaths should be reported to CFR staff within seven (7) days of the death by coroner's report. The enclosed **SUIDI Reporting Form** should be used for infant death reporting to CFR. All infant deaths must be reported using this form. *Please note: If you have already had an infant death in your county this year, and you have not reported it to CFR, you must complete and send in the SUIDI Reporting Form immediately.* The SUIDI Reporting Form should also be submitted to your county CFR Chairperson in advance of the CFR meeting. Additional SUIDI Reporting Forms can be found online and printed free of charge, from the CDC website at <http://cdc.gov/sids/SUID.htm> . The coroner/investigator reporting form can now be found online at: <http://cfrform.questionpro.com/> . Either form is permitted.

Please complete the evaluation survey to describe how this doll is used in your county. We strongly encourage you to report to CFR staff any barriers or issues that you encounter in your infant death scene investigations, so we can assist and report those to CDC and make recommendations on your behalf for improvements in the system. The survey can be found at: <http://surveymonkey.com/s/BKCDQWC> . If you need help or are unable to submit the SUIDI Reporting Form to CFR within (7) days, please call our office (404-656-4200).

Thank you!

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