



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
Administration on Children, Youth and Families  
1250 Maryland Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20024

JUL 10 2009

Dear Child Welfare Administrator:

This letter is to notify you of the change in the file transfer software used for the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) files. The new software, Cyberfusion, will replace the existing Connect:Direct software.

Last fall the Social Security Administration (SSA) announced that it will no longer support Connect:Direct (C:D) by Sterling for data file transmissions. The SSA will use Cyberfusion by Proginet. The SSA provided all States a license to use Cyberfusion. Based on this change, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Office of Information Services (OIS) conducted research and testing of Cyberfusion and other file transfer solutions. The evaluation also included assessing the level of effort and impact on resources this migration would have on the Children's Bureau system and for the States. As a result of this evaluation, OIS has decided to use Cyberfusion, which will be hosted at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Data Center. The AFCARS file transfers will no longer be routed through SSA to NIH. Instead, AFCARS file transfers will occur directly between States and NIH. In regard to security requirements, Cyberfusion is FISMA FIPS 140-2 certified.

The conversion to the new software must be completed in time for the fall submission of the 2009B AFCARS data, October 1, 2009. In order to accomplish this, State report file transmission testing will occur between July 27, 2009 and September 18, 2009.

Some States have tested and made the necessary changes to their file transfer configuration as part of the SSA conversion phase. Therefore, the impact on making the configuration changes for the AFCARS file transfer should be minimal. Testing for the AFCARS report will be conducted in three groups. Enclosed with this letter are instructions, the State groups, and a form that must be completed and returned to OIS. Contact information is included on these enclosures.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph J. Bock".

Joseph J. Bock  
Acting Associate Commissioner  
Children's Bureau

Enclosures