



"We must ensure that, in America, no victim of domestic violence ever struggles alone."

President Barack Obama

The Department of State Family Advocacy Program: Clinical and Administrative Considerations



Stanley Piotroski, PhD





The DOS Family Advocacy Program: Administrative and Clinical Considerations

- An Overview of the family advocacy program
- Key processes of the FAC/FAT process
- Provider and employee concerns about FAC
- Clinical considerations
- Application of considerations to case vignettes.



DOS Family Advocacy: An Overview

- **Purpose**: To prevent and respond effectively to suspected child abuse/neglect and domestic violence involving DOS and others under Chief of Mission (COM) authority at post.
- **Impact**: Child abuse and domestic violence harm the overall quality of life and can affect diplomatic readiness.
- **Method**: The Family Advocacy Program addresses both child abuse and domestic violence through:
 - Prevention
 - Training
 - Reporting/Investigation/Evaluation/Intervention

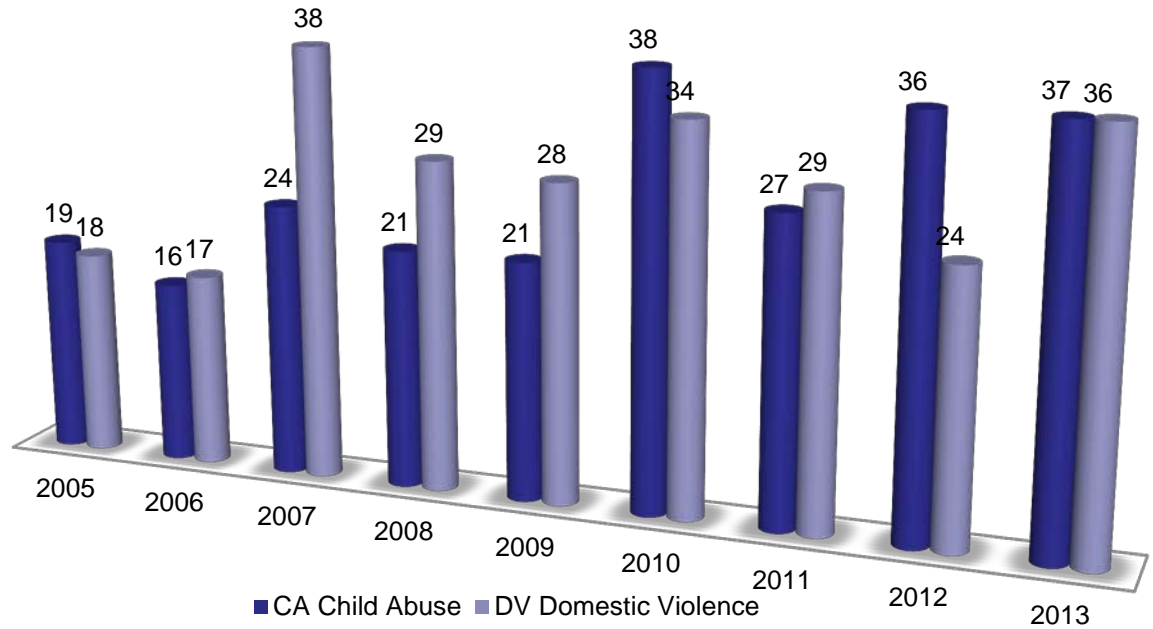


2012 & 2013 MED FAC Statistics

	Child	Domestic Violence
2012	36	24
2013	37*	36*

* As of 12-18-2013

Number of FAC Cases 2005-2013





Clinical Considerations

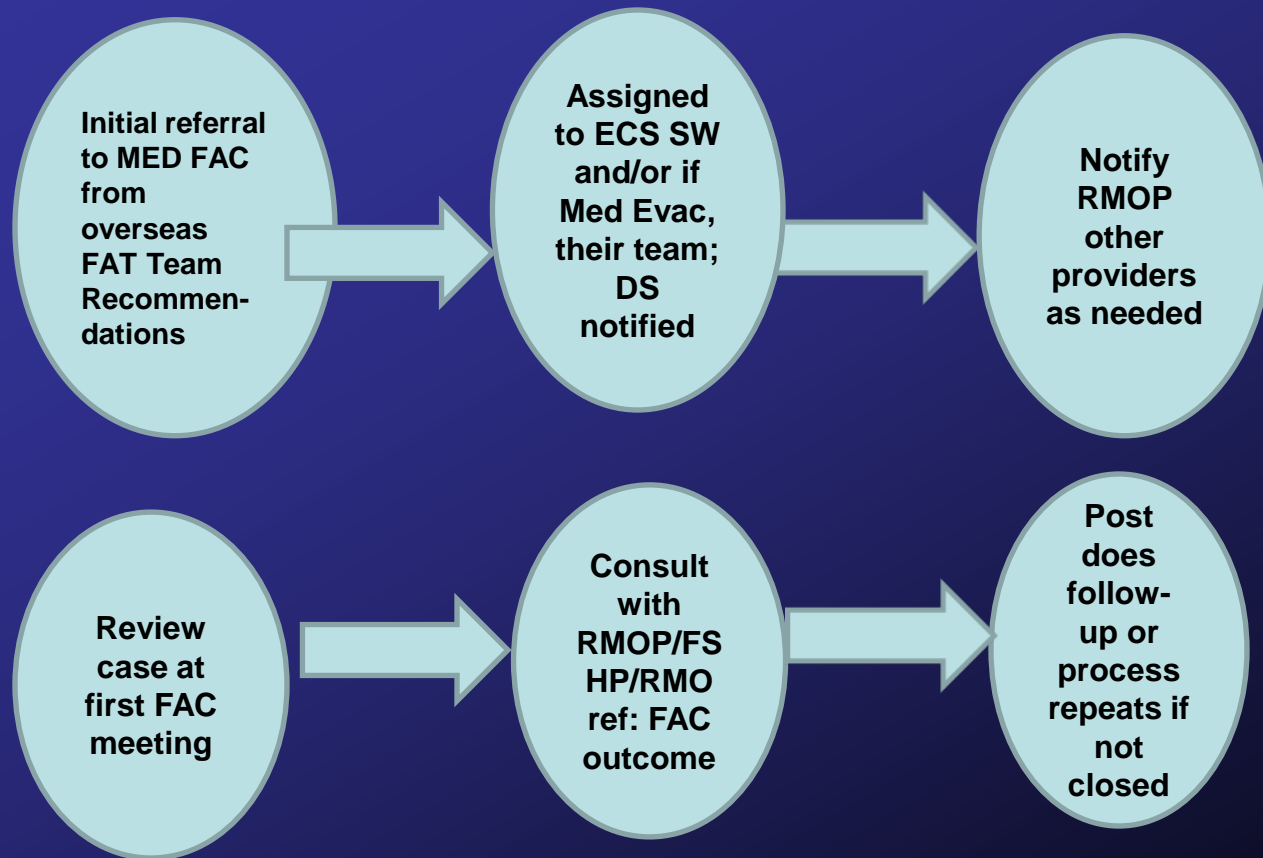
- Risk and safety of alleged victims
- Available resources at post
- Severity of abuse
- History of past abuse/past FAC allegations
- Young age of children in the household
- Mental health and/or substance abuse
- Support systems



MED's role in the FAC Process

- Coordinate consultation on all overseas suspected child abuse/neglect/sexual abuse and domestic violence
- Provide guidance ref: assessment and treatment during biweekly FAC multidisciplinary team meetings in DC
- Link with Diplomatic Security
- Maintain family advocacy documentation/files
- MH makes clearance recommendations and coordinates Med Evacs
- ECS coordinates information

MED FAC Process

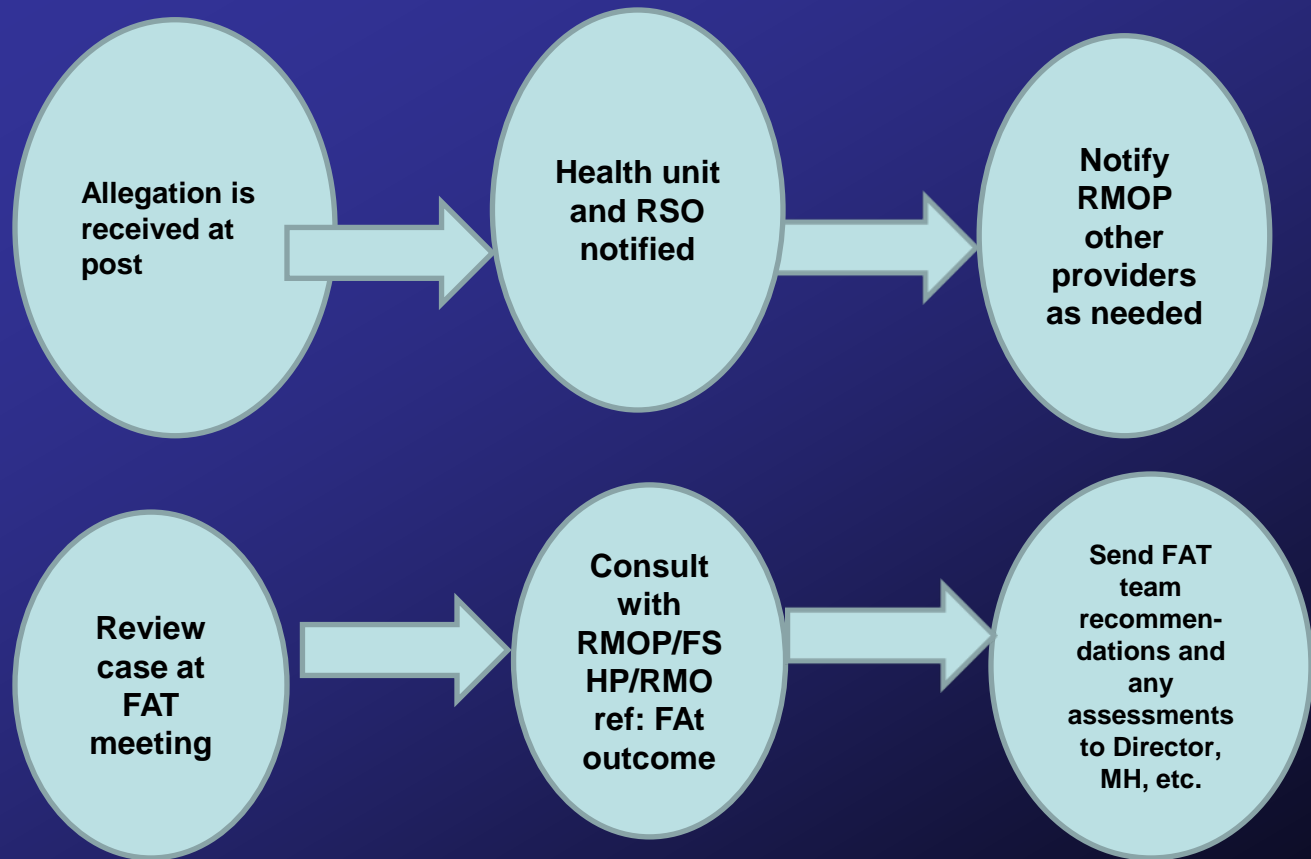




The MED Post FAT Process

- When abuse is suspected overseas, it needs to be reported to health unit (at times ECS DS gets it first)
- Post will hold a FAT team meeting to assess and make clinical recommendations
- RMOP/FSHP reports it to MED FAP Program
- Decision made whether it will be handled overseas/US
- When Med Evac is recommended, comprehensive assessments/treatment/DS assessment will be scheduled
- After assessment/treatment MED clearance recommendation made

MED FAT Process





Considerations for FAC MED Evacs

- **Mental Health coordinates Med Evacs for severe cases when overseas resources not available**
- **Post can request a Med Evac for Mental health issues of employees/families, Domestic Violence**
- **After assessments/treatment is done, a clearance recommendation will be made**



Employee/Provider Concerns about FAC

- **At post health unit/employee's workplace may feel that they need to protect the employee**
- **Employee may be very fearful about the impact on their career**
- **MED Evacs can be disruptive to employee and family**
- **In very serious cases, employee or their family member may lose their clearance; however in most instances, this is NOT the case**
- **It is mandated for US child cases, that the clinician refer the case to appropriate authorities**



Coordination with Other Agencies under COM

- Referrals need to be made on personnel from other agencies
- Agencies include: DoD*, CDC, DEA, etc.
- After referral case will be reviewed and referred to each respective agency

*highest number of other agency cases are from DOD



Contact MED Ref: All COM FAC Allegations

If anyone under COM learns of child sexual abuse, physical abuse or emotional abuse, or domestic violence they need to report it for the sake of the child or family. The FSHP/RMOP/RMO in the health unit needs to refer to MH/ECS and email:

Ken Dekleva, MD, Director, MH, Current Chair FAC
Email: DeklevaK@state.gov

John Rennick, MD, Deputy MH
Email: RennickJH@state.gov

**Stanley Piotroski, PhD, Director, ECS and Deputy
Director, Mental Health Domestic Programs**
Email: Piotroskiss@state.gov



Case Vignette One

- **Allegation:** Alleged Child physical abuse of 4 year old by father
- **Agency:** Department of Defense
- **Referring Source:** Preschool Teacher
- **Child seemed to have trouble sitting back in his chair. When teacher inquired, he said, “my daddy hit me on the back.” Teacher looked at their was bruising on his back. Child reported it to administration who contacted the health unit at post.**



Case Vignette Two

- **Allegation:** Alleged Domestic violence of husband towards wife
- **Agency:** Department of State
- **Referring Source:** Wife of FSO at post
- While in a routine health appointment, the wife of a FSO reported that her husband had struck her on the face during an argument. She stated that he frequently takes her keys away from her, will not allow her to have any money and at times will not allow her access to her phone. Wife received her US citizenship two years ago, but was raised in Beijing until she met her husband.



Case Vignette Three

- **Allegation:** Alleged Domestic Violence and Child Abuse
- **Agency:** Department of State
- **Referring Source:** Adolescent daughter reported it to school counselor
- **16 year old daughter of DOS FSO told school counselor that her father has struck her mother and has been verbally abusive to her. She said she wanted to run away from her home due to the stress in the household. She states she witnessed her father knock her mother down and slap her.**



ECS EAP Contact Information

Stanley S. Piotroski, PhD, LCSW-C, CSW, Director

Piotoskiss@state.gov

703-875-6341

•Ms. Pollenetta Douglas, Administrative Assistant

DouglasPP@state.gov

703-812-2257

•FAX: 703-875-4952

•Primary Email: MEDECS@state.gov

•Locations: ECS HQ is now in SA15A, Rosslyn; HST Health Unit and new location at FSI in December 2013.



ECS EAP Clinical Contact Information

ECS EAP Clinical Staff

EUR (Western Europe)

Ms. Ellen Millner, LICSW

Millnerep@state.gov 703-516-1703

EAP/SA (East Asia and South Asia)

Dr. Vivian Sheliga, PhD, BCD, LCSW

Pouncysmithjx@state.gov 703-516-1701

AF/ (African Affairs)

Ms. Terri Nemethy, LCSW

NemethyTL@state.gov; 703-516-1711

NEA and Eastern EUR (Near Eastern Affairs and Eastern Europe)

Ms. Kristin Scholl, LCSW

SchollKE@state.gov; 202-736-7010

WHA (Central America, Caribbean, Mexico, Canada)

Ms. Jackie Pouncy Smith

Pouncy-SmithJX@state.gov; 703-516-1582

FSI (Foreign Service Institute)

Ms. Helen Jones, LCSW

JonesHR@state.gov; 202-647-4921



References

- **3 FAM 1800 Family Advocacy Program**
- **3 FAM 1810 FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM (Child Abuse, Child Neglect, and Domestic Violence)**
- **System of Records Notices: SORN**