



Handling **Conflicting Data**

Learning Together, Protecting Tomorrows



Key Funding Partner

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Icebreaker

Share with your colleagues in the chat

Halloween party or Halloween movie marathon?

What to Expect Today

October Office Hours



Examples

Scenarios with potentially conflicting information.



Resolution

Tips for handling conflicting data.



Open Discussion

Other questions and comments.



Scenarios

Conflicting Data During Case Reviews

Scenario 1

Conflicting Data – Race of the Decedent

A one-month-old infant died from positional asphyxia after being placed to sleep on a couch. The death certificate indicated that the infant was white. Some medical records for the mother indicated she was American Indian (Cherokee Nation) and that Indian Health Service (IHS) provided the majority of her prenatal care at an IHS facility.

Scenario 2

Conflicting Data – Sleep Location

A newborn infant died while in the hospital. The biological parents completed a doll re-enactment: both parents placed the infant in a bassinette face up as part of the re-enactment. Hospital records indicate the mother stated she was sleeping with the infant in the hospital bed at the time of the incident.

Scenario 3

Conflicting Data – Cause of Death

A two-month-old infant died while sleeping in an adult bed. The SUIDIRF indicated that there was no surface sharing at the time of the incident. The biological parents indicated they fell asleep while watching a movie on living room couch. The SUIDIRF indicated the presence of pillows and heavy comforter next to the infant but not obstructing the airway. The death certificate indicated “likely suffocation, assume overlay.”

Scenario 4

Conflicting Data – Manner of Death

A 16-year-old female was found unresponsive in her bedroom. Law enforcement found alcohol and 4 white pills in a baggy next to decedent. Toxicology confirmed the presence of Xanax (Alprazolam) that belonged to her mother who had a prescription. Parents recently divorced. Decedent was receiving counseling services for anger and depression. Law enforcement reported that the decedent had been looking at websites on how to kill self. The death certificate listed manner of death as accident.



Resolution

Suggestions for Documentation

It's Really A Team Decision

Considerations

- Confirm all possible data resources have been collected.
- Give every voice a chance to be heard.
- Selecting the response “Unknown” in the NFR-CRS is an option if consensus cannot be reached.



Places to Document Conflicting Data in the NFR-CRS

Section O1: Narrative

★ Section O1: Narrative

Use this space to provide more detail on the circumstances of the death and to describe any other relevant information.

DO NOT INCLUDE IDENTIFIERS IN THE NARRATIVE such as names, addresses, and specific service providers.

Consider the following questions: What was the child doing? Where did it happen? How did it happen? What went wrong? What was the quality of the supervision? What was the injury cause of death?

The Narrative is included in de-identified downloads, and per MPH/NCFRP's data use agreement with your state.

This is the place where you can note details of the case as well as conflicting data.

Places to Document Conflicting Data in the NFR-CRS

Section G5: Manner of Death

5. Official manner of death from the death certificate: 

- Natural
- Accident
- Suicide
- Homicide
- Undetermined
- Pending
- Unknown

[Deselect answer](#)

If manner of death was not Natural or Suicide, check this box if it is possible that the child intended to hurt him/herself.

If checked, complete the Suicide section (16) to note other risk factors in the child's life.

Places to Document Conflicting Data in the NFR-CRS

Section M7: Review Meeting Outcomes

★ 7. Review meeting outcomes, check all that apply: ⓘ

Team disagreed with official manner of death

What did team believe manner should be?

Team disagreed with official cause of death

What did team believe cause should be?

Because of the review, the official cause or manner of death was changed

Places to Document Conflicting Data in the NFR-CRS

Section I2p: Reliable Witness

—

★ p. Was there a reliable, non-conflicting witness account of how the child was found? ⓘ

Yes

No

Unknown

[Deselect answer](#)

Places to Document Conflicting Data in the NFR-CRS

Section O2: FIMR Issues Summary, question 19

19. Documentation

Present

Contributing

Inconsistent/unclear information

[Deselect answer](#)

Missing data

[Deselect answer](#)

No death scene investigation

[Deselect answer](#)

No doll re-enactment

[Deselect answer](#)

Other

[Deselect answer](#)

A photograph of a young woman and an older man standing in a pumpkin patch. The woman is on the left, wearing a plaid shirt over a white turtleneck, and is smiling at the man. The man is on the right, wearing a dark sweater over a red and white checkered shirt, and is holding a large orange pumpkin. The background is filled with many pumpkins, some in focus and some blurred, creating a bokeh effect. A dark blue semi-transparent rectangle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the text.

Summary

What suggestions do you have for handling conflicting data?



Open Discussion

How can we help you today?



Office Hours

2025 Sessions from the National Center

Date	Topic
11/18/2025	Facilitating Difficult Conversations
12/16/2025	Interactive Meetings: Designing Live Icebreaker Dashboards

Visit <https://ncfrp.org/news/> to register.

Thank You for Your Time!

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