WHAT ABOUT TECHNICAL SUPPORT?

Database development and technical support are provided from the CHRIS Headquarters located at the University of Miami.

A technical assistance work group and an advisory board made up of users of CHRIS information meet regularly to provide direction to the project and oversee development and maintenance of the software.

HOW TO LOCATE THE NEAREST FDLRS CENTER?

The Florida Department of Education maintains an up-to-date list of FDLRS centers. For information contact:
Florida Department of Education
Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services
850-245-0478
www.fdlrs.com

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**WHAT IS CHRIS?**
The Children’s Registry and Information System (CHRIS) is a computer data system used throughout Florida to coordinate services for children (ages birth to kindergarten) referred to the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS).

**WHY WAS CHRIS DEVELOPED?**
CHRIS was developed in response to the need for a registry to provide service coordination for children prior to school entry who are receiving services provided by the state under Part C (birth to age 3) or Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). It provides the Florida Department of Education with a means of documenting efforts required by IDEA to locate, evaluate, and provide necessary services to children who may be eligible under the act.

**HOW DOES THE CHRIS SYSTEM WORK?**
CHRIS is used to assist children and their families in getting the services they need. Families, services providers, and agencies refer children who may be at risk. These children may need special services, additional information, or developmental screening. As these children progress through the continuum from referral to service provision, service coordination information is entered into the database. This information is available for service providers who work with individual children to ensure the efficient use of time and resources.

**WHAT INFORMATION IS MAINTAINED IN CHRIS?**
CHRIS contains information on children birth to kindergarten entry in the following areas:
- Child and family demographics
- Interagency release
- Referrals
- Family contacts
- Appointments
- Screenings
- Evaluations
- Services planned and received
- Follow-up actions needed
- Disability program eligibility

**WHO USES CHRIS?**
The information in CHRIS is used by a wide range of professionals:
- Child Find Specialists
- Families and Service Coordinators
- School District Administrators
- Early Steps Program Directors
- Exceptional Student Education Directors
- Head Start and Early Head Start Directors
- Preschool Interagency Coalition
- Early Learning Coalition

**IS CONFIDENTIALITY PROTECTED?**
Personally identifiable information on a child, parent, or family member in CHRIS is strictly confidential. Information cannot be released without the express written and informed consent of the parent or guardian.

Active interagency release forms are maintained on file with the service providers requesting or releasing information. Information release is governed by the Family Educational Right and Privacy Act (FERPA). No personally identifiable information is released without proper parent authorization.

Aggregate information that is not personally identifiable may be reported for planning purposes and outcome evaluation.