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## DCFS HIGHLIGHTS ABCs OF SAFE SLEEP AS SAFE SLEEP MONTH COMES TO A CLOSE

*Sleep suffocation was the leading cause of reported child deaths in Illinois in 2012*

CHICAGO – As Safe Sleep Month comes to a close, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is reminding parents and caregivers about the ABCs of safe sleep.

Infants and babies should always sleep:

Alone  
On their Backs  
In a safe Crib

Sleep suffocation was the leading cause of reported child deaths in Illinois in 2012, when 40 indicated deaths (44 percent) were caused by unsafe sleep conditions.

Most deaths occurred when parents slept with a newborn or infant in their bed and unknowingly rolled over and smothered the child. In other instances, parents put a newborn or infant to sleep on an adult mattress or couch, with covers that were unsafe, or on their stomachs, contributing to suffocation.

DCFS officials note that while the deaths might have been accidental, Illinois law holds parents and other caretakers accountable for creating a substantial risk of injury to a child. This prompts a DCFS investigation that can result in an indicated finding of neglect.

For more information on safe sleeping tips, visit [www.DCFS.Illinois.gov](http://www.DCFS.Illinois.gov).