



Caregiver Mentor Program Training Agenda – Day 2

- How To Effectively Work With The Agency
 - Understanding The Agency
 - Mission, Values, Guiding Principles and Goals
 - The Child's Journey Through The System
 - The Social Workers Involved In The Course Of A Child's Case
 - The Stages Of Placement
 - Working Effectively With Your Social Worker
 - Communicating With The Court
 - Understanding Foster Parent Role Throughout The Course Of A Case
 - Working With The Court, Ice Breakers, TDM's, Facilitating Visitation, Obtaining Medical Care, Education, Transitioning Children, Surviving An Allegation.
- Accessing Resources



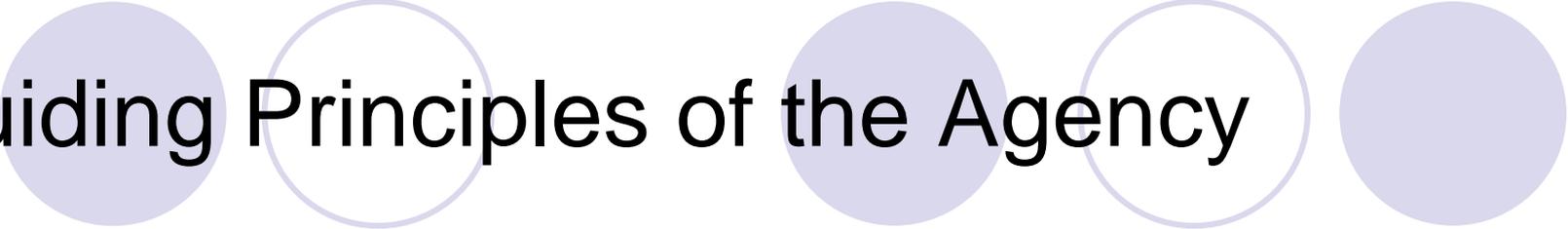
Understanding The Social Services Agency: Children and Family Services (SSA/CFS)

- Orange County Children and Family Services (CFS) Mission Statement:

The Mission of CFS is to partner with families, to ensure their children live in a safe, nurturing, and permanent home. Further, CFS believes that families have the desire, strength, and abilities to make healthy choices for their children and families well being.

- Core Values:

Integrity, Fairness, Diversity, Compassion, Respect, Courtesy, Teamwork, Initiative, Thoroughness, Efficiency, and Creativity.

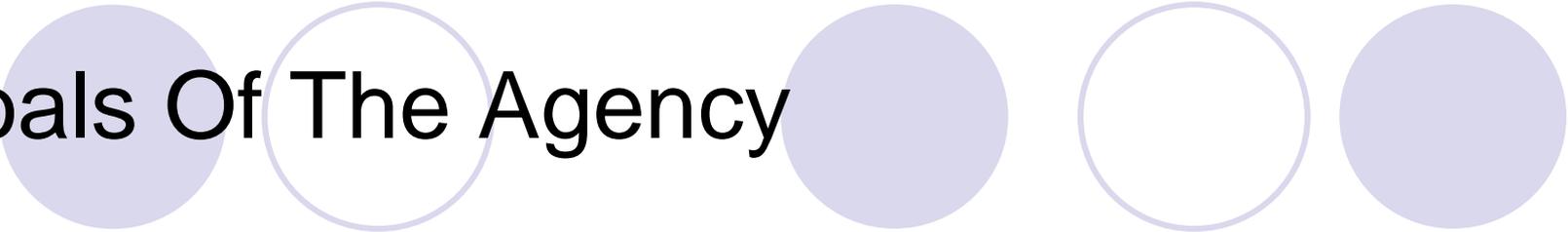


Guiding Principles of the Agency

Safety, Permanence and Well-Being:

- “Best interest” of the children principle
- Minimum sufficient level of care of the home
- Concurrent planning and permanence for the child
- Collaboration and Teamwork – Foster parents are valued professional team members.

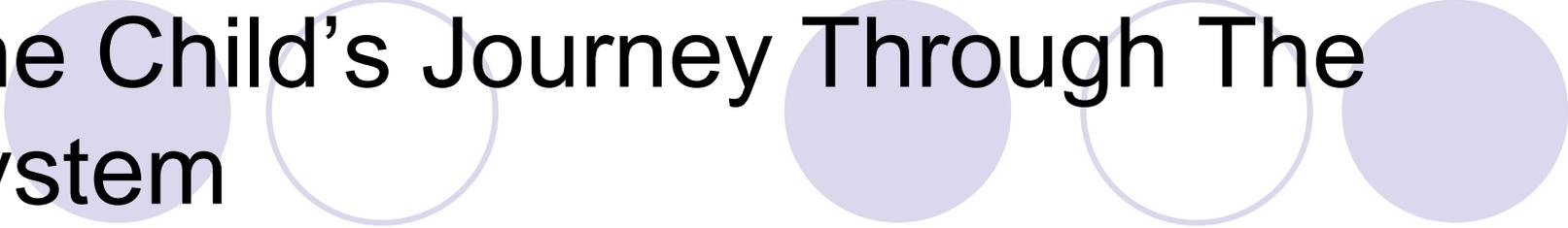
Goals Of The Agency



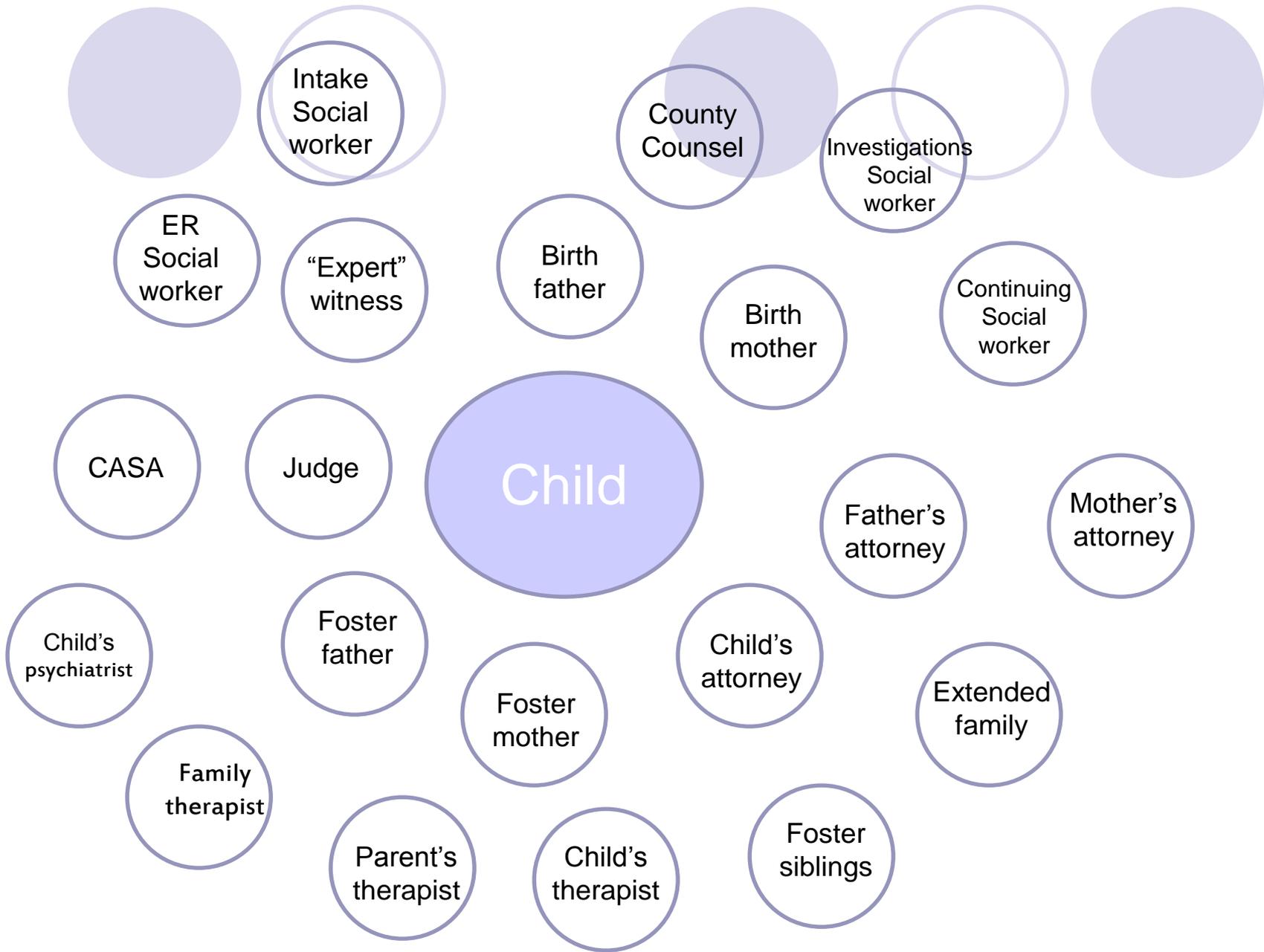
- Provide Quality: Objectives and Strategies

- Communication
- Consistency
- Accountability
- Critical thinking

The Child's Journey Through The System



- The Child And Everyone Involved
- The Social Workers
- The Process of Dependency
- The Court



Types of Assigned Social Workers (ASW):

○ Front End

- Child Abuse Registry (CAR).
- Emergency Response/Differential Response (ER).
- Intake/Investigations
- Intensive Supervision Program (CRISP).
- Family Maintenance/Healthy Tomorrows (FM).

○ Ongoing

- Integrated Continuing Services (ICS).
- Specialized Family Services (SFS) aka (Special Medical).
- Permanency Placement Services (PSP) aka (Group Homes).

○ Back End

- Adoptions.

Types of Support Social Workers

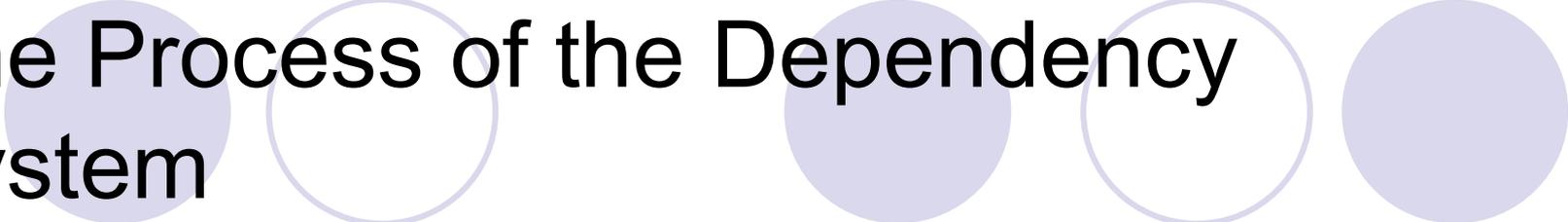
○ Support Social Workers

- Diversion (DSW)
- Placement (PSW)
- Family Support (FSW)
- Licensing Placement Analysts (LPA) aka licensing social worker
- Transitional Planning Services (TPS) aka ILP
- Runaway Prevention Liaison
- B worker & C worker (Adoptions support workers)
- Social Worker II
- Eligibility Technicians (ET's)

How to Effectively Work with your Social Worker

- Using voice mail
- Knowing when to call your Social Worker
- Social Worker unavailable
 - Call Officer of the day.
 - Call ASW Supervisor.
- Email
- After hour problems or emergencies
 - Call (714) 935-7171 (to report emergencies).
 - Call (714) 935-6262 (Connect A Counselor 8pm – 7am).

The Process of the Dependency System



- A child abuse report is filed.
- The child may be detained and a petition must be filed within 48 hours of the child being removed.
- Once a petition is filed, the Detention Hearing must be held by the end of the next judicial day.
- The Jurisdictional Hearing will be held within the next 15 days to determine whether or not the allegations should be sustained. (This date could be continued).
- The Dispositional Hearing must be within 60 days of the Detention Hearing to determine if the child should be declared a dependent, and how to best find safety and permanence for the child.
- Six, Twelve, Eighteen Month Status Reviews are set to either return the child, review the case plan and reunification services, or move towards a permanent plan.

Placement Options for Children

- Home with Birth Parents
- First Step
- Orangewood Children and Family Center
- Relatives/Non-Related Extended Family Members (NREFMs)
- Licensed County Foster Homes
 - ◆ Emergency Shelter Homes (ESH)
 - ◆ Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care (MTFC)
 - ◆ Concurrent Planning (CP) aka Adoptive homes
- Foster Family Agency Homes (FFA)
- Temporary Shelter Homes (TSH)
- Group Homes
- Assembly Bill 12 (AB12) Homes for Non-Minor Dependents (NMD's)

When A Child's Case Is Heard At Court

● Who will be at the Court Hearing?

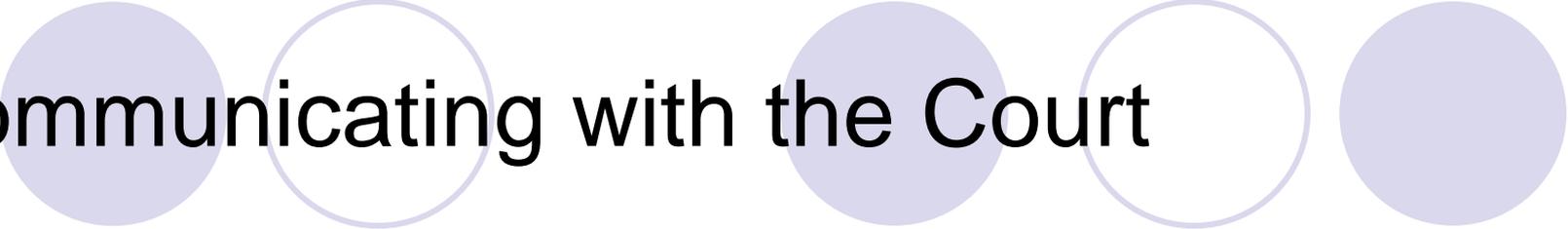
- The Judge/Commissioner/Referee.
- Bailiff
- Court Clerk
- Court Reporter
- Social Services Court Officer
- Attorneys for Child, Parents, Social Services
- The Child (if asked to attend, age 10 and above)
- Parents
- Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)
- Caretaker

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

Judges refer the most serious cases of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect to a CASA.

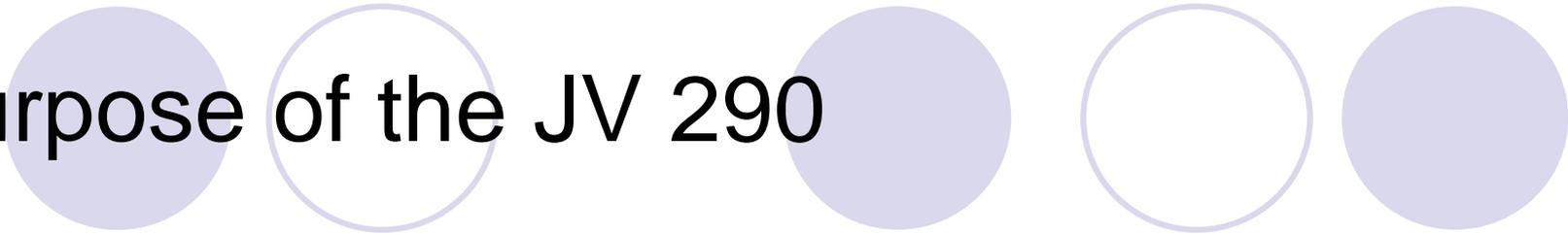
A CASA:

- is an officer of the court and is bound by all court rules.
- is a volunteer who works with one or two children at a time.
- provides a one-on-one stable adult relationship.
- serves as a mentor and source of support for their child.
- independently monitors the child's circumstances and provides fact based information to the court in the best interest of a child.
- advocates for a safe and permanent home for each child.
- works cooperatively with the county social workers.
- receives information that is confidential and may not be shared with parties other than the county social worker, child's attorney, and CASA staff.



Communicating with the Court

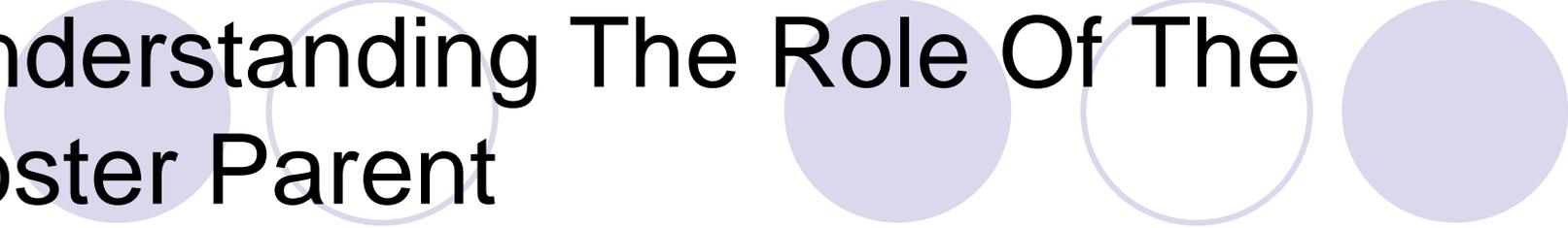
- There are several ways to communicate information to the Court:
 - Assigned Social Worker
 - Child's Attorney
 - Caregiver Information Form (JV 290)
 - This form is used starting at the 6 month review



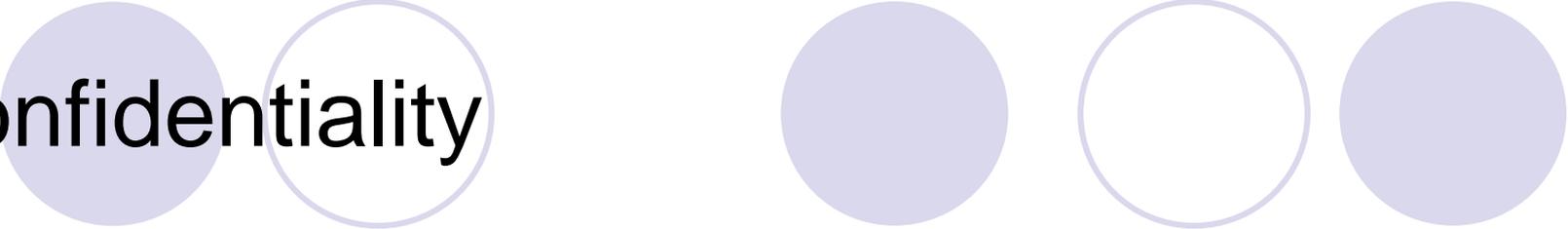
Purpose of the JV 290

- The JV 290 gives the Court the opportunity to understand what happens in the everyday life of the child.
- The JV 290 gives foster parents a voice in Court.
- The JV 290 is also known as the Caregiver Information Form.
- You will receive this in the placement packet and they may be sent with the Notice of Hearing.
- You can access it at <http://www.courts.ca.gov/forms.htm>.

Understanding The Role Of The Foster Parent



- Be a Member of The Team
- Communicate With Social Worker All Pertinent Information Regarding The Child
- Facilitate Visitation
- Obtain Medical Care
- Enroll Children In School
- Prepare Children For Transitioning
 - Attend Team Decision Making meetings
 - Attend Ice Breakers
- Surviving An Allegation



Confidentiality

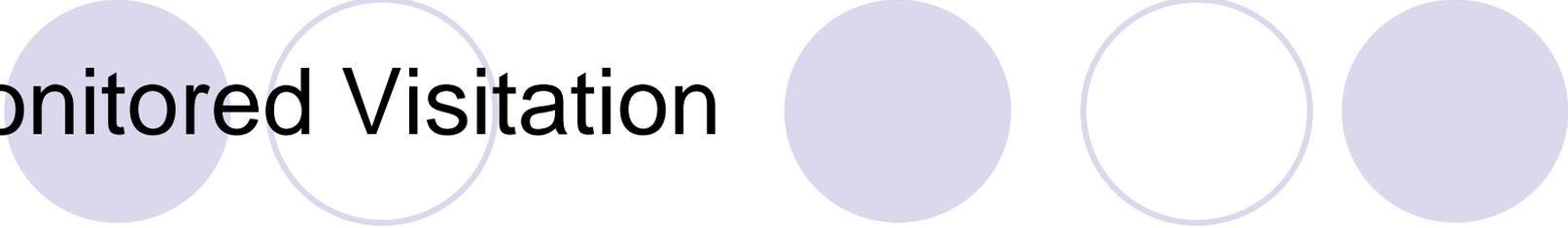
- The Need to Know vs. The Want to Know.
- Caretakers vs. Friends and other foster parents.
- Be Able To Educate Community Partners and Providers.
- Reminders:
 - When emailing workers use first name, last initial of the child, no date of birth.
 - Information you cannot share without a court order or consent from the affected individual:
 - Mental health treatment where the minor has a right to consent to the care.
 - Substance abuse treatment records of the parent or child.
 - Some medical information including prevention/treatment of pregnancy and HIV antibody test results
 - Court reports and petitions.

Facilitating Visitation



- There are 3 types of visitation:
 - Monitored – A monitored visit is between a dependent child and their parent(s) observed by the monitor who is either CFS staff, CFS-Contracted Staff, or a third party approved by the assigned SSW.
 - Supervised – A supervised visit consists of several families held at a designated visitation site observed by CFS staff, CFS-Contracted Staff, or Trained Volunteer Staff.
 - Unmonitored – An unmonitored visit is between a dependent child and a parent(s) without the presence and oversight of CFS staff or a third party.

Monitored Visitation

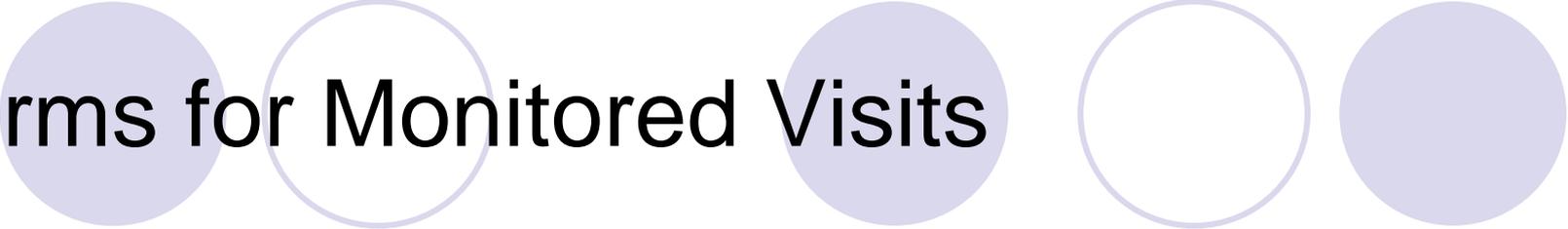


○ Purpose

- Safety
- Quality

○ Role of the Foster Parent

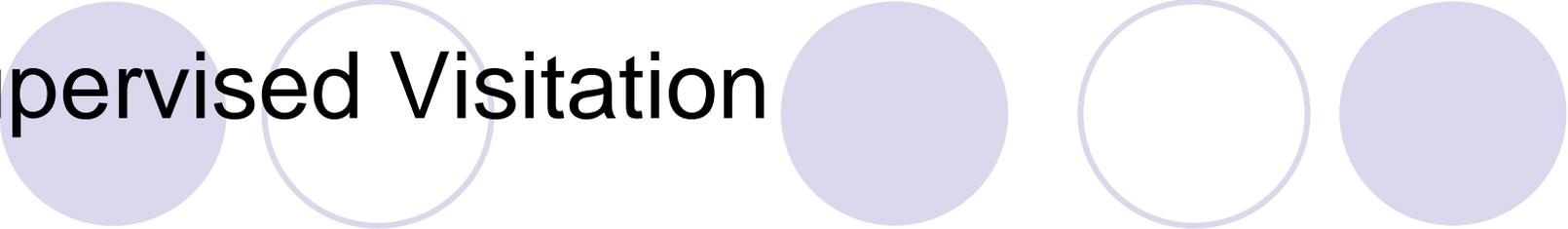
- Be an **objective** observer.
- Assume responsibility for the safety and the well being of the child throughout the visit.
- Intervene when necessary to maintain control of the visit and redirect inappropriate behavior.
- Maintain a courteous, professional relationship with all visitors.
- Provide written feedback to the assigned social worker within (7) days and notify the social worker immediately regarding any concerns.
- Terminate the visit if the safety or well-being of the child is jeopardized by the visitor.



Forms for Monitored Visits

- Monitored Visitation Guideline.
- Monitored Visitation Checklist.
- Monitored Visit Summary.
- Supervised Visitation Guideline.

Supervised Visitation



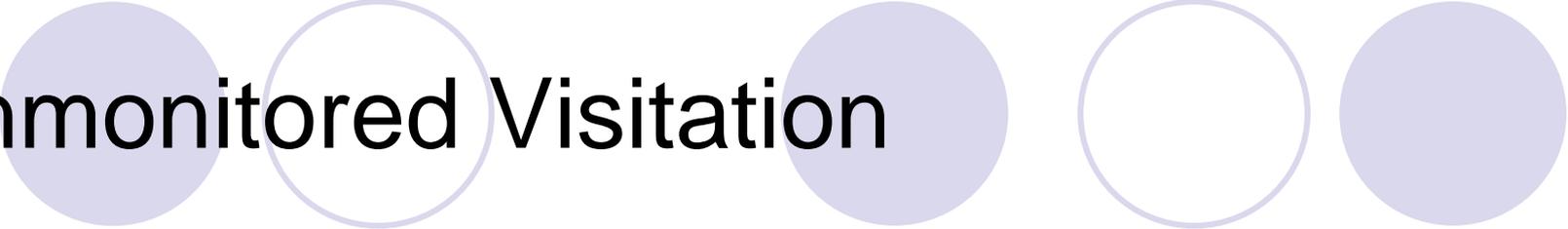
○ Purpose

- Safety
- Monitoring is not necessary

○ Role of the Foster Parent

- Take child to supervised visitation center and wait for visitor to arrive.
- Follow visitation center protocol for drop off and pick up procedure.
- Return to visitation center at agreed time or if notified to return sooner.

Unmonitored Visitation



- Purpose

- Safety is not a concern
- Promotes the reunification process

- Role of the Foster Parent

- Drop off and pick up at the designated time
- Support positive visitation

How To Effectively Transition Children Out of Your Home



- Use of TDMs
- Use of Icebreakers
- Supporting the Agency's decisions
- Supporting and encouraging the child/ren during transitions
- Use of Life books
- Communicating effectively with birth family or previous foster parent.
- Exchange of pertinent information
- Child's belongings to go with him/her

Team Decision Making Meetings

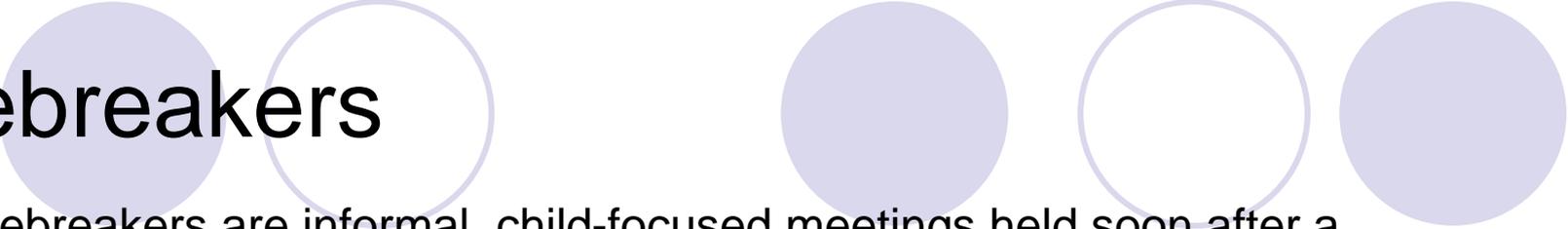
- Intended to preserve the family while ensuring the child's safety and well being when possible.
- Family and community strengths are used to form safety plans that enable children to safely remain in or return home with supportive services.
- When a return home is not possible, plans are made with the goal of:
 - Keeping the child safe.
 - Identifying the least restrictive placement possible for the child.
 - Preserving and nurturing the child's familial and community connections.

Types of Team Decision Making Meetings

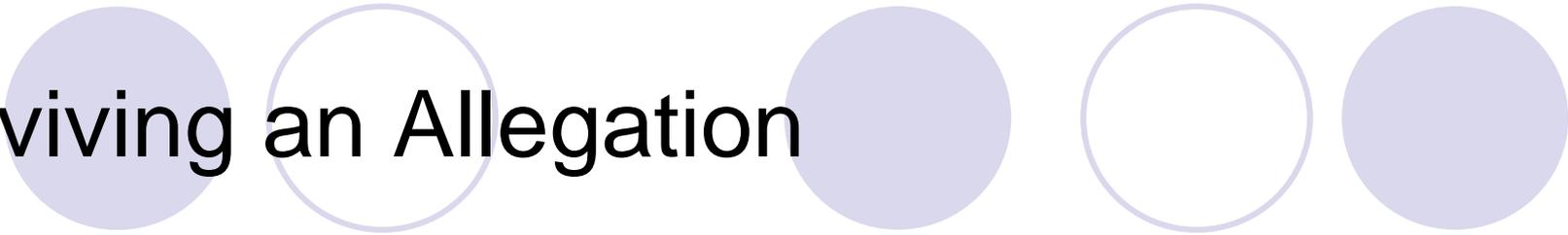


- Imminent Risk
- Emergency Removal
- Placement Preservation
- Family Reunification Progress
- Trial Visit
- Permanent Plan

Icebreakers

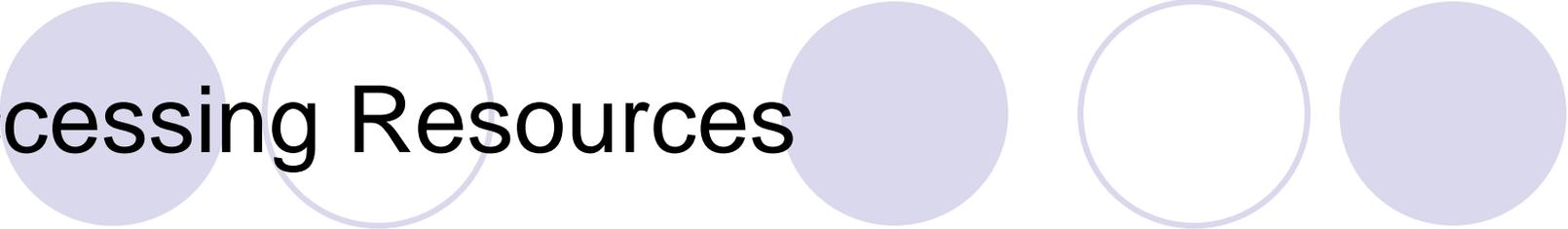


- Icebreakers are informal, child-focused meetings held soon after a child is placed in out-of-home care to facilitate the sharing of information about the child and team building between the child's parents and caregivers.
 - **Purpose:**
 - Develop a team relationship between parents and caregivers with the goal of meeting the child's needs while in out-of-home care.
 - Engage the family early in the reunification process by creating an atmosphere of support.
 - Provide an opportunity for parents or guardians to share important information regarding their child with the child's caregiver.
 - Reassure a child that his/her parents and caregivers are working together to provide for his/her care.
 - Facilitate a child's positive adjustment to their placement while maintaining their relationship with their parents.



Surviving an Allegation

- YOU ARE NOT ALONE!!
- Just because an allegation is made, the State DOES NOT assume that abuse did occur.
- Because foster parents are licensed they are more closely monitored than the general public.
- Children in placement are more likely to exhibit difficult behavior that can increase stress levels.
- If the information received raises reasonable questions about the condition in the foster home, the law requires that an investigation be done.
- Difference between child abuse investigation and licensing violation.
- Best way to protect yourself is with DOCUMENTATION.



Accessing Resources

- Joanna Hussey
Foster Care & Kinship Liaison
714-704-TALK (8255)



OC Resource Family Guide

- Yearly updated guide with important phone numbers for assistance with:
 - Child Care Funding.
 - Educational Needs.
 - Foster Care Eligibility and Medi-Cal.
 - Foster Parent Mandatory Training.
 - Respite.
 - And more.....

Child Care Funding



- Orange County dependent children are eligible for child care funding for children 0 – 5 years.
- The assigned social worker will make a referral to the Child Care Funding Coordinator. (714) 704-6145.
- Funding is \$375.00 a month with a maximum of one year per child.
- A simultaneous referral will be made to Children's Home Society.
- Each foster parent must be employed outside of the home with verifiable income.
- You must use a licensed child care provider or center.

Educational Needs



- All school age children need to be enrolled in school immediately.
- School of Origin Policy.
- Orange County Department of Education - Foster Youth Services Education Manager is Betsy DeGarmoe – **(714) 835-4909 x 6438.**
- IEPs, 504 Plans.
- Child's advocate/surrogate.

Foster Care Eligibility and Medi-cal

- Every foster child is assigned an Eligibility Technician (ET).
- If you do not know who the Eligibility Technician for your child is you can call 714-704-8000 and ask for the Eligibility Officer of the Day.
- Temporary Medi-Cal cards/BIC cards.
- All Orange County children are eligible for services through CalOptima.
- The CalOptima foster care liaison for Orange County is Cydney Weber – **(714)796-6132**. Her email is cweber@caloptima.org.

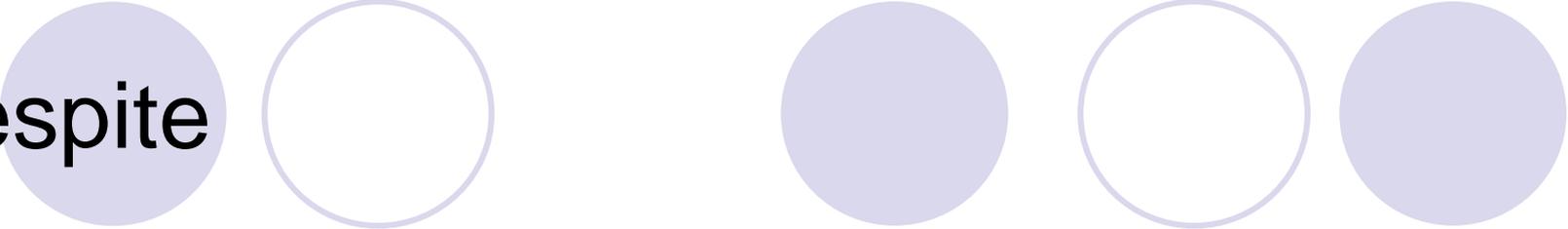
Foster Parent Mandatory Training

- Orange County licensed foster parents must have 8 hours of annual training for each person listed on the license.
- Training hours can be obtained through:
 - Saddleback College Foster and Kinship Care Education. (Free).
 - 8 hours of training can be obtained from the annual Foster, Adoptive, and Kinship Conference.
 - 4 hours can be obtained online through two approved sites:
 - fosterparenttraining.com. (cost varies).
 - Any other training options must have prior approval from your licensing social worker (LPA).



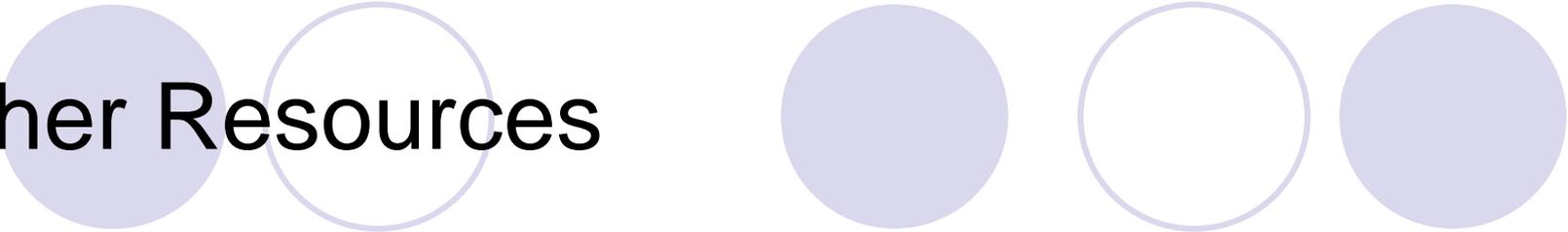
Mileage Reimbursement

- Orange County foster parents are eligible for mileage reimbursement for Orange County dependent children.
 - Eligible activities include:
 - Picking up a foster child at Orangewood Children and Family Center or from another placement facility at the time of the initial placement.
 - Transporting a foster child to court or to court ordered visits with parents and family members.
 - Transporting a foster child for dental, medical, physical therapy or psychological counseling appointments.
 - Attending Icebreakers, Team Decision Making Meetings and Emergency Shelter Care meetings at the request of Children and Family Services.
 - Contact the Foster Parent Liaison for forms and instructions.



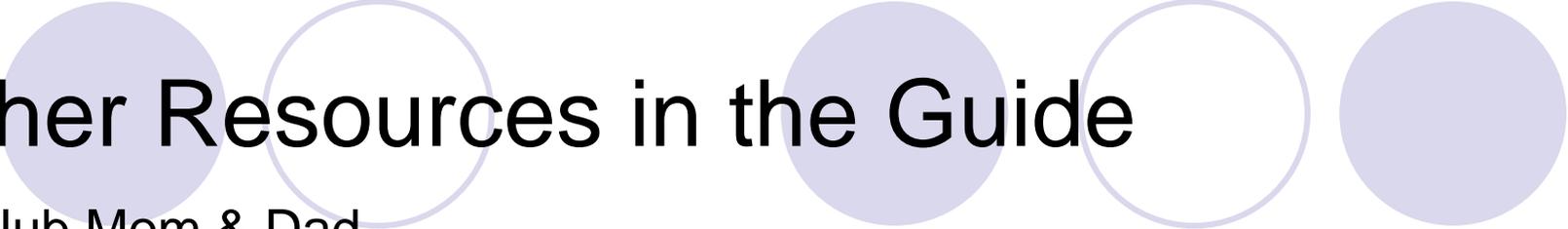
Respite

- Time Out For Parents is administered by New Alternatives, Inc.
- The current Respite Coordinator is Spring Wilson. Her number is 714-245-0045.
- Respite is available from 1 to 72 hours.
- Respite reimbursement rates.
- Prudent Parenting Standards.



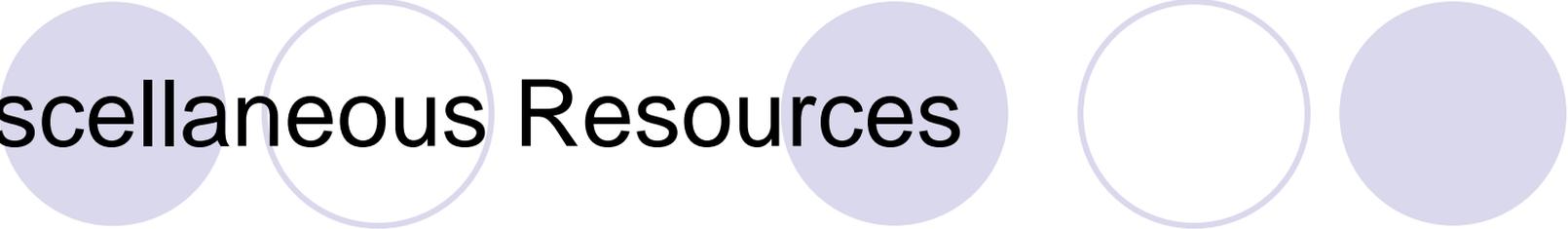
Other Resources

- Foster Care Auxiliary
 - Open to the Public
 - Thrift Store
 - Baby gear loaner program.
 - Available to members (\$75.00 yearly fee)
 - Monthly distribution of new merchandise.
 - Free weekly baked goods.
 - Free birthday gift shopping for foster children.
 - Free event tickets.
- The Link Newsletter



Other Resources in the Guide

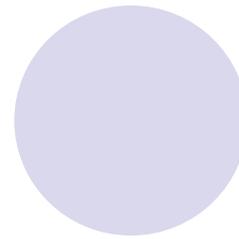
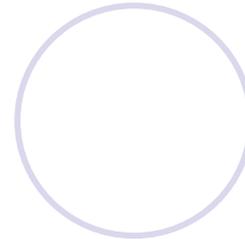
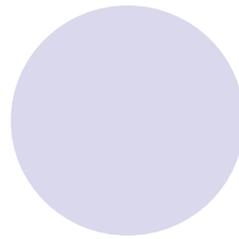
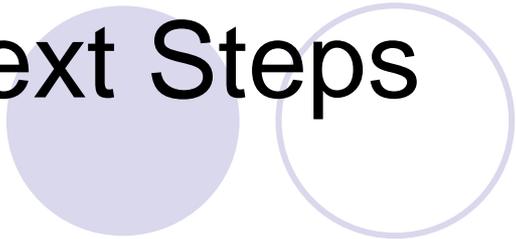
- Club Mom & Dad.
- CPR & First Aid.
- Families and Communities Together (F.A.C.T).
- Family Visitation Centers.
- Help Me Grow.
- Kinship Center.
- Library Cards.
- OC4KIDS.com.
- OC Head Start.
- Operation Santa Claus/Gift Store.
- Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
- Who Do I Call?



Miscellaneous Resources

- California Alternative Rate for Energy (CARE)
 - Southern CA Gas Company 1-800-427-2200 and Southern CA Edison 1-800-655-4555 offer a 20% discount if you have low income, receive public assistance, receive SSI or someone in the home receives the school lunch program, Cal-works, Medi-Cal, Cal-Fresh, WIC or Medi-Caid. An application needs to be requested, completed and approved to receive the 20% discount.
- Clothing Resources
 - Local Thrift and Consignment Stores.
 - Keeping Your Own Stock.
 - Operation School Bell.
 - Foster Care Auxiliary Thrift Store.
- Extra-curricular Activity Funding
 - Orangewood Children's Foundation.
 - Foster Children's scholarships in the community.
- Car Seats

Next Steps



Welcome to the Caregiver Mentor Program!!!