

Foster 

VC Kids

21st Century Caregiving :
Foster VC Kids Resource Family Training
Session 1

Course Learning Goals

- ▶ **Participants will be able to make informed decisions about fostering for their family.**
- ▶ **Participants will understand their important roles and commitments as member of the Ventura County professional foster care team.**
- ▶ **Participants will be prepared to navigate the foster care system.**
- ▶ **Participants will be prepared to provide quality parenting, normal childhood experiences and trauma-sensitive care to the foster children in their home.**



Day One Learning Objectives

- ▶ **Demonstrate a clear understanding of Children & Family Services, the agency's goals, and how they relate to your role as a resource family.**
- ▶ **Explain CFS & Foster VC Kids mission, vision, & values and how your role as a resource family fits into Ventura County's system of care.**
- ▶ **Discuss the key elements of the legal statutes that govern child welfare.**
- ▶ **Identify the California's dependency court process and the key partners in Ventura County's system of care.**
- ▶ **Articulate any attributes or issues that children may have that you would not be able to accept in your home.**



Ice-Breaker



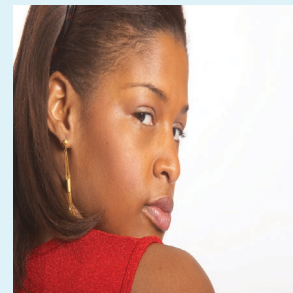
Children & Family Services

- ▶ CFS' overarching goal is Protecting Children by Strengthening Families.
- ▶ Whenever possible, CFS seeks to maintain children in their homes safely.
- ▶ When this is not possible, CFS seeks to first place with relatives/extended-family members.
- ▶ The ultimate goal is to return children to their parent (or guardian) as soon as it is safe.
- ▶ When reunification is not possible, we seek to establish a long-term permanent connection.



Foster VC Kids

- ▶ Foster VC Kids is the Resource Family information, resource and support arm of the county.
- ▶ We work to ensure that our resource families have the support they need to offer quality care.
- ▶ Foster VC Kids supports families to enhance safety, permanency, and well-being for their children.
- ▶ Foster VC Kids strives to ensure children will maintain and establish safe and nurturing relationships.
- ▶ We value teamwork, respect, nurturing, and committed partners.



The Quality Parenting Initiative

- ▶ Ventura County is a QPI County.
- ▶ This means we are committed to high quality partnerships within the child welfare system.
- ▶ The Partnership Agreement and Commitments come from our QPI work.
- ▶ Visit www.qpicalifornia.org to learn more!



Partnership Commitments

Services and Support

Respectful Partnership

High Quality Parenting

Responsible Placement

Obtaining and Maintaining Records

Avoiding Disruption for Child(ren)

Professional Behavior

Professional Development

Respect for Child's Connections

Smooth Transitions

Child Advocacy

Mental and Physical Well-being for Child(ren)

Case Planning

Supporting School Success

Co-Parenting, family Mentoring and Continuity for Child



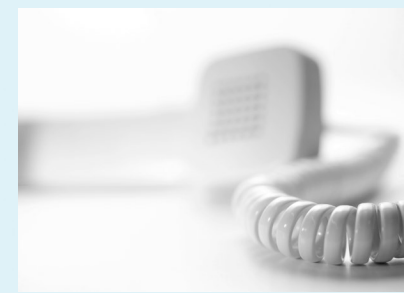
Activity



Partnership
for Children

What is the Welfare & Institutions Code?

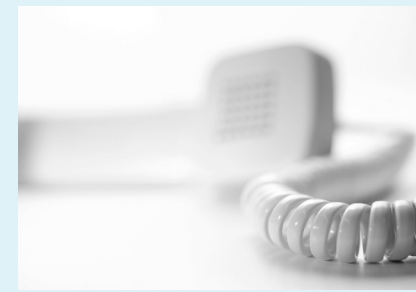
- ▶ The Welfare & Institutions Code (WIC):
 - Provides the **legal framework** for everything we do in the state of California's child welfare system
 - Establishes **specific requirements, policy and procedure** for all phases and aspects of the child welfare system of care



What is ASFA?

▶ The Adoptions and Safe Families ACT (ASFA) :

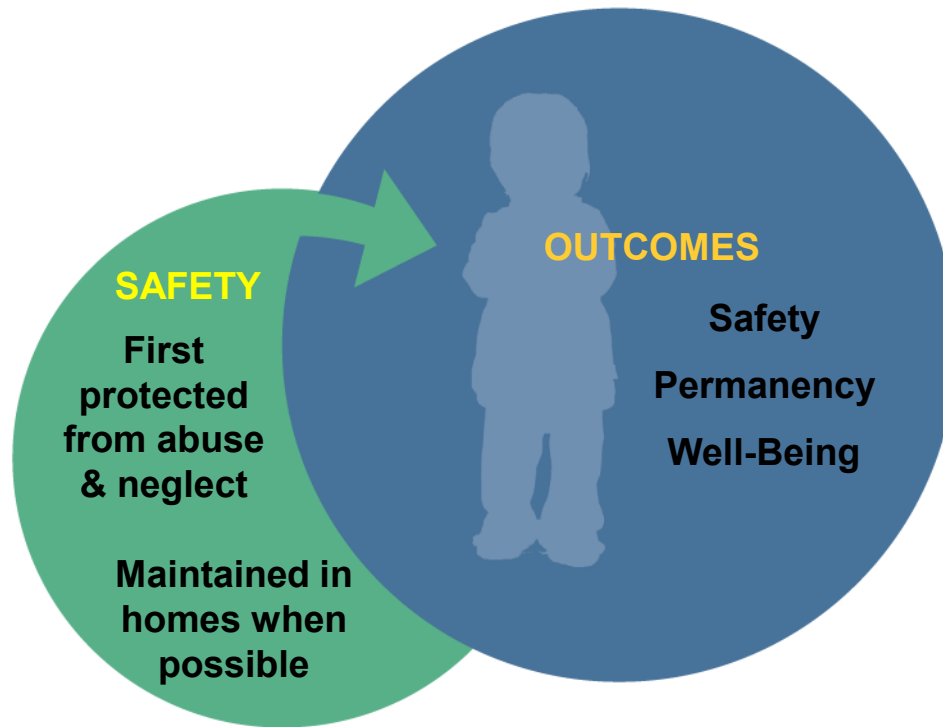
- Signed into **federal law** in 1997
- **Fundamental change** to child welfare
- **Health and safety** became primary concerns
- Promotes **permanent homes** for children
- Seven **major outcomes** for children
- Requires the **states to comply** to receive federal funding
- Resource Family Homes must also be in compliance with ASFA regulations in order to receive foster care funds



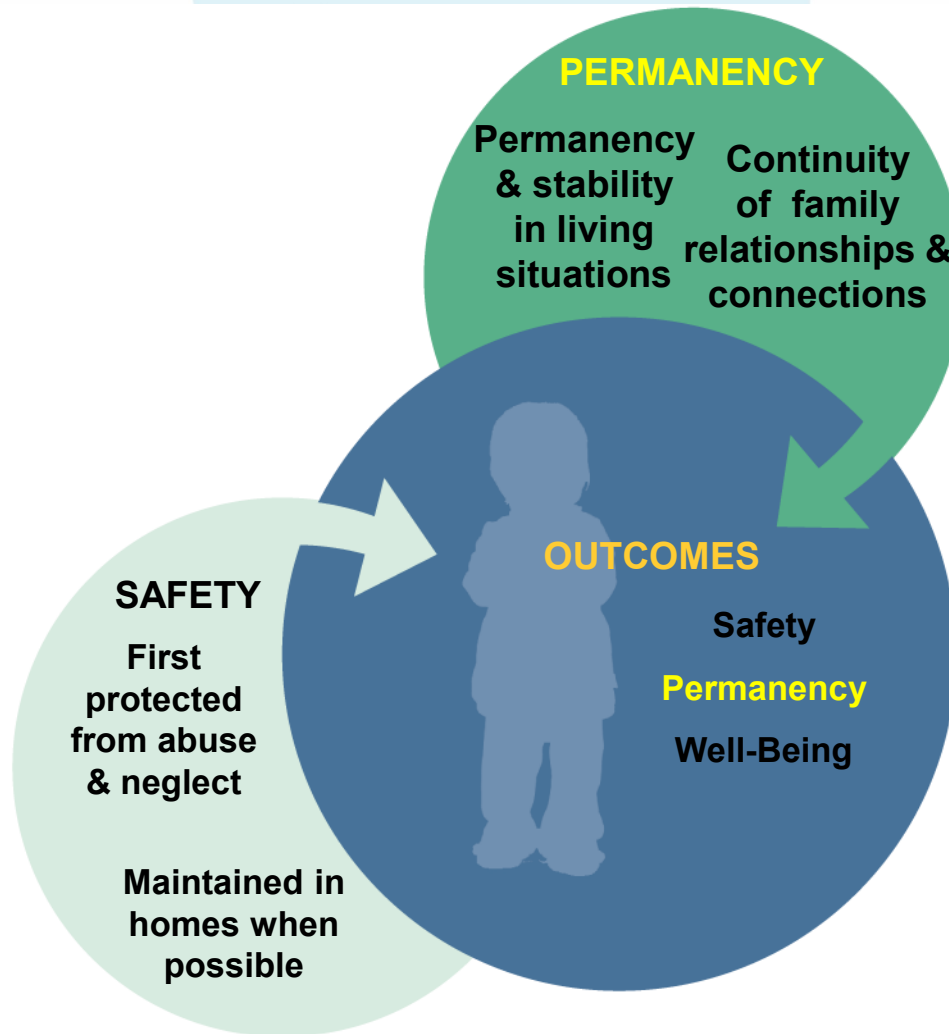
Overarching Outcomes for Children



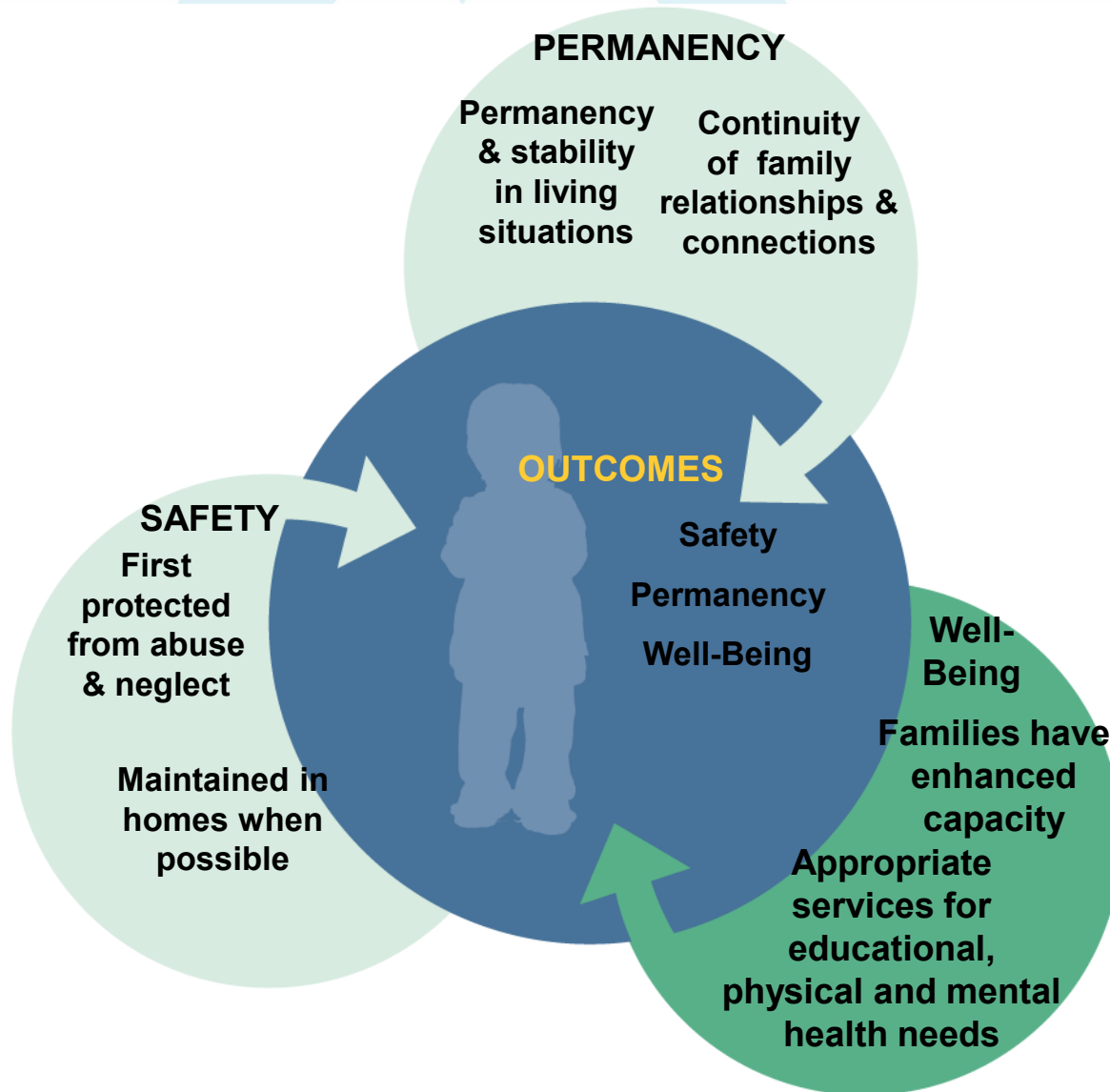
Overarching Outcomes for Children



Overarching Outcomes for Children



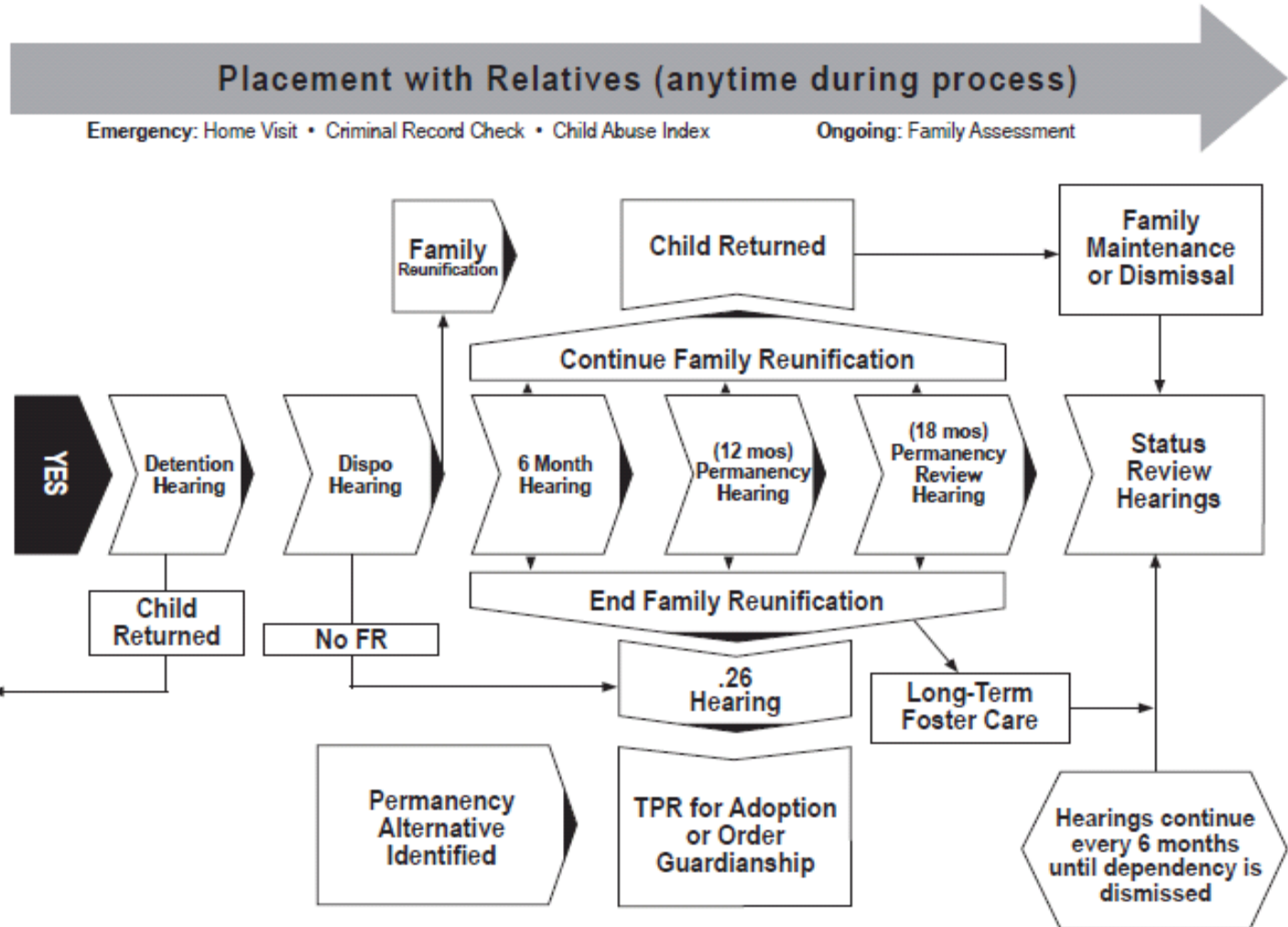
Overarching Outcomes for Children



Snapshot of a CFS Case



Children & Family Services Child Welfare System



Referral to CFS

CFS Responds

Child Removed?

NO

Preventative Services

Remain with Family

YES

Detention Hearing

Dispo Hearing

6 Month Hearing

(12 mos) Permanency Hearing

(18 mos) Permanency Review Hearing

Status Review Hearings

Child Returned

No FR

End Family Reunification

.26 Hearing

Long-Term Foster Care

Permanency Alternative Identified

TPR for Adoption or Order Guardianship

Hearings continue every 6 months until dependency is dismissed

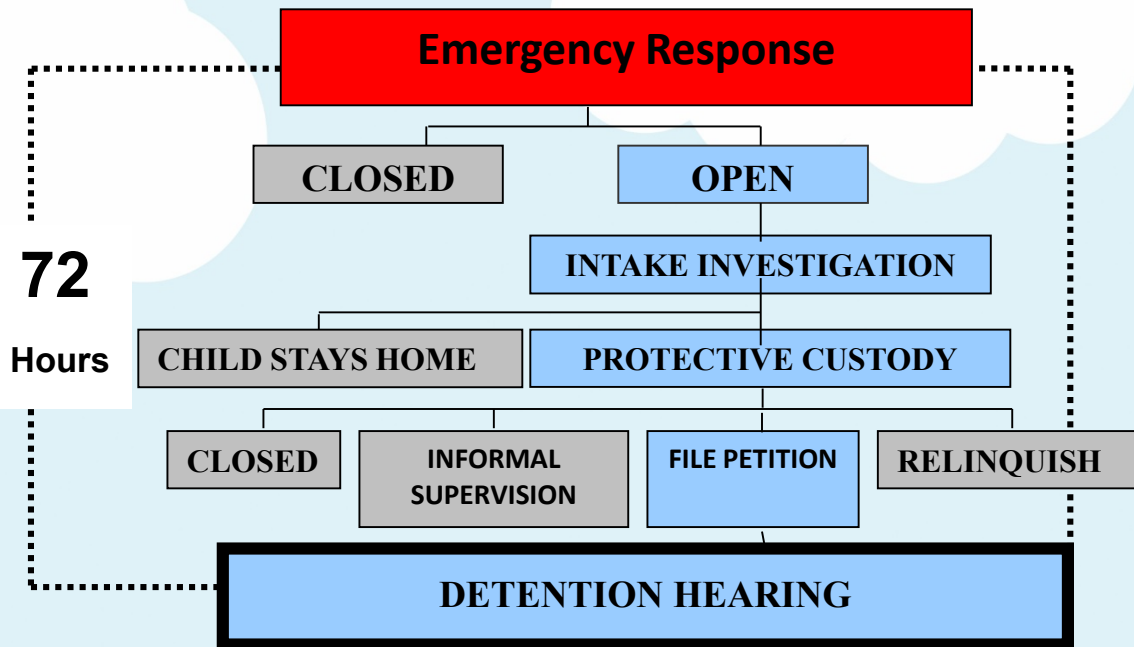
Family Reunification

Child Returned

Family Maintenance or Dismissal

Continue Family Reunification

The Dependency System: ER & Detention Hearing



EMERGENCY RESPONSE:

If a call is received by the child abuse hotline that warrants an investigation, an emergency response worker will investigate and determine if the referral should be closed, if the child can remain in the home while services are offered, or if the child needs to be removed to ensure immediate safety.

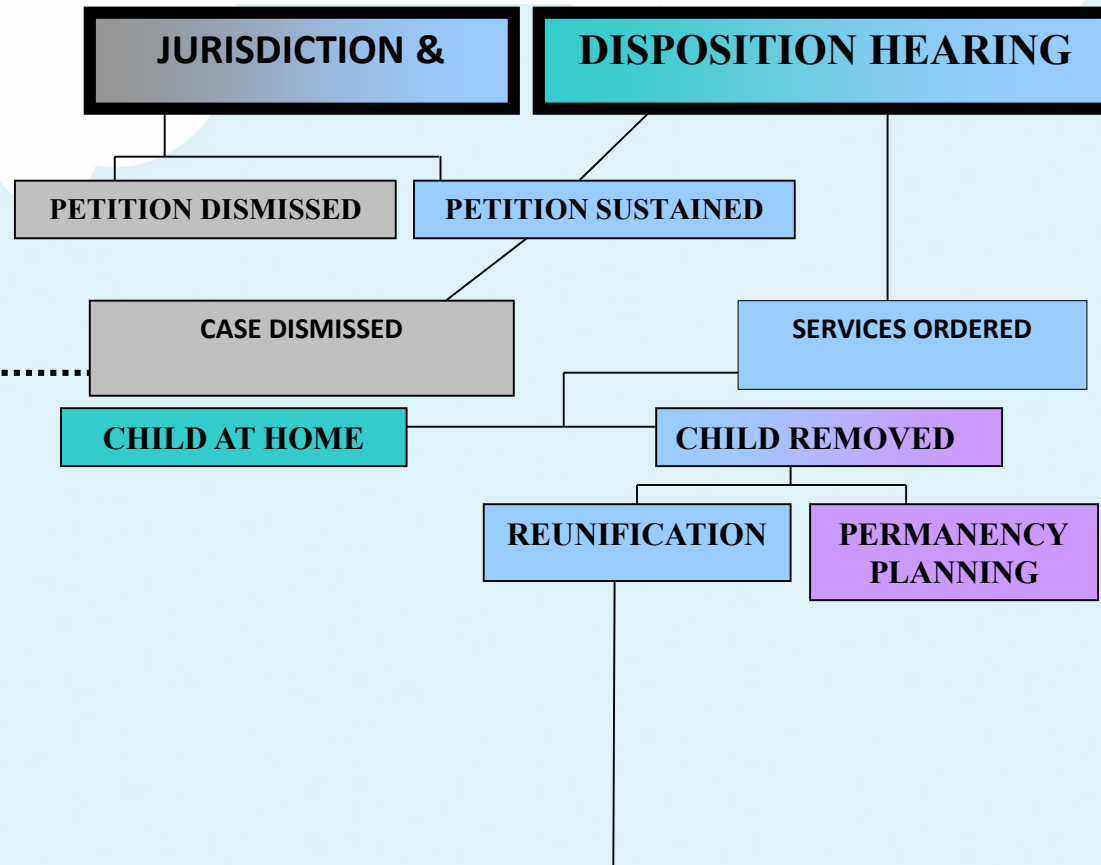
DETENTION HEARING:

Legal Considerations: The minor shall be released to the parents unless legal grounds are established to temporarily detain the minor. CFS files a petition with the Court alleging child abuse or neglect within 72 hours of the detention.

Time Lines: A minor may be detained in protective custody for approximately 15 court days pending a jurisdictional hearing.

The Dependency System: J& D, Reunification and Case Planning

15 Days Protective Custody; 30 Days Child Stays Home



JURISDICTION & DISPOSITION HEARING

(J&D): NOTE: In Ventura County the Jurisdictional and Dispositional Hearings are combined

Legal Considerations for Jurisdiction: Whether the child comes within the provisions of WIC 300 as a result of abuse or neglect. Additionally, unexplained non-accidental serious injuries while in the care/custody of parent are presumed to be the result of abuse or neglect.

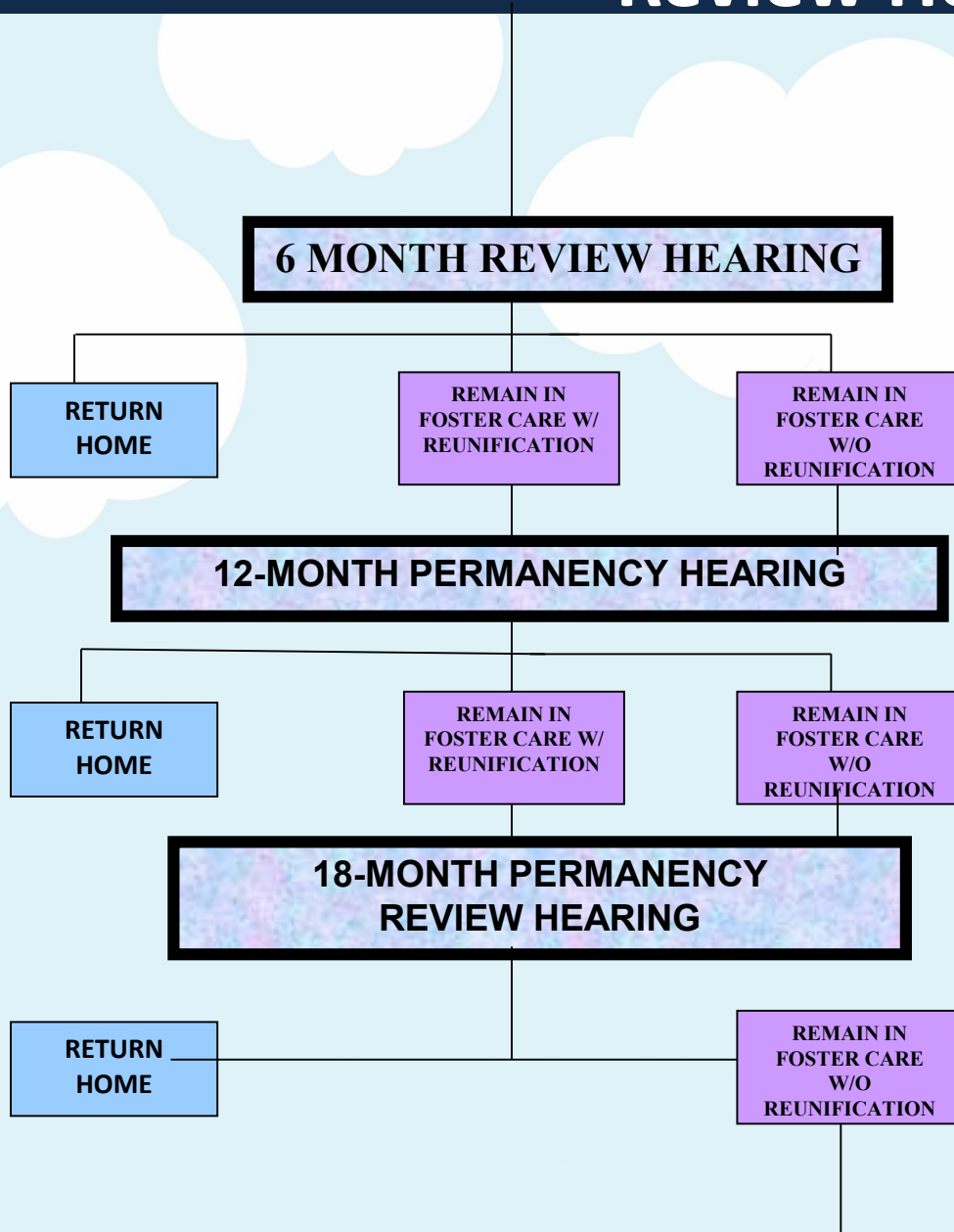
Placement: The minor shall be returned to the custody of the parents unless clear and convincing evidence of detriment. If the Court removes a minor from a custodial parent:

- The minor will be placed with a previously non-custodial parent unless such placement would be detrimental.
- Preferential consideration for placement will be given to a request by certain relatives.

Reunification: Some cases may be recommended for a By-pass of Services based on specific criteria; however, most cases will usually receive reunification services. The initial case plan is submitted along with the report which outlines objectives, goals and services. Out of home cases require a concurrent plan for permanency, should reunification efforts not succeed.

Time Lines: 15 court days after the Detention hearing if child is out of home, 30 calendar days if child remains home. In some cases this can be

The Dependency System: Review Hearings



SIX-MONTH REVIEW HEARING:

Legal Considerations:

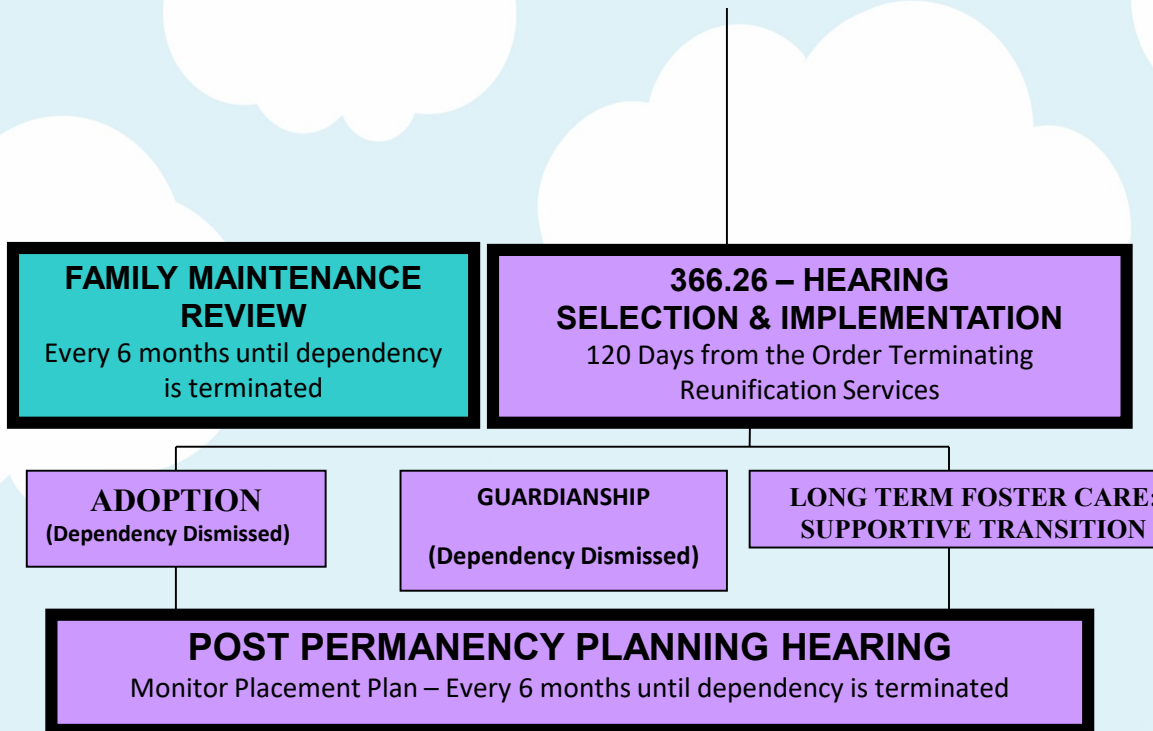
- The minor shall be returned to the parents unless there is a substantial risk to the minor's physical or emotional well being or when the parents have failed to participate regularly in any Court ordered treatment programs.
 - Reunification services may continue to be offered if the parent is making substantial progress.
 - If minor has been returned to the home, terminate dependency unless continued supervision is necessary.
 - A case may be recommended for Termination of Services, (proceeding with permanency planning) based on specific criteria.
- Time Lines:** 6 months from the "entry into foster care". "Entry into foster care" is defined as date of Jurisdictional Hearing or 60 days after initial removal, whichever comes first.

TWELVE- & EIGHTEEN MONTH PERMANENCY HEARING:

Legal Considerations:

- The minor shall be returned to the parents unless there is a substantial risk to the minor's physical or emotional well being or when the parents have failed to participate regularly in any Court ordered treatment programs.
 - Reunification services may continue to be offered if the parent is making substantial progress
 - If minor remained home, terminate dependency unless continued supervision is necessary.
 - When the minor is not returned to the parents, services will be terminated unless there is a substantial probability that the minor will be returned to the custody of the parents within six months or unless reasonable services have not been provided.
- Time Lines:** 12 & 18 months from the "entry into foster care". "Entry into foster care" is defined as date of Jurisdictional Hearing or 60 days after initial removal, whichever comes first.

The Dependency System: Adoption & Guardianship



SELECTION AND IMPLEMENTATION HEARING:

This hearing is commonly referred to as the .26

Legal Considerations: If an adoptive home is identified, parental rights will be terminated unless adoption would be detrimental to the child.

Time Lines: 120 days from Order Terminating Reunification Services.

POST PERMANENCY PLANNING HEARING:

This hearing determines if progress is being made to find a permanent home for the child and if the case can be closed or terminated.

Legal Considerations: Agency must continue permanency efforts for the child and assist Non-Minor Dependents with supportive transition services.

Time Lines: Every six months until case is dismissed.

CALIFORNIA'S FOSTERING CONNECTIONS TO SUCCESS ACT: AB12, AB212

This mandate, originating from Federal legislation, permits youth with placement orders at age 18 to remain in care until age 21 as "Non-Minor Dependents" (NMD) if they meet specific participation criteria.

The Foster Care Team



Deal Breakers: RFA Approval Requirements

Minimum Qualifications

- ▶ Age
- ▶ Financial security
- ▶ Background checks
- ▶ Complete psychosocial assessment




Other Requirements

- ▶ Your home
- ▶ Your health
- ▶ Your willingness to work as part of a team
- ▶ Your willingness to co-parent and support a child's connections to his/her family of origin



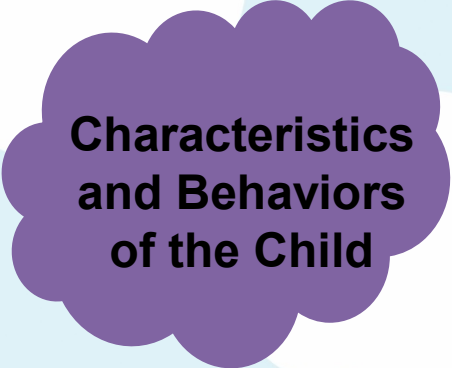
Deal Breakers: Your Requirements




**Sex, Age &
Number of
Children**



**Education
of the Child**



**Characteristics
and Behaviors
of the Child**



**Your Feelings
Towards
Openness**



**Family History
& Culture of
the Child**



**Health of
the Child**

Activity



Deal Breakers

Purpose of Homework Assignments

- ▶ The purpose of the homework element to this training is **to reinforce the skills and knowledge** you are building in the classroom.
- ▶ The **journaling assignments** and **self-assessment** will help you identify your strengths, needs, motivations and desires which is critical if you are going to effectively bring a child into your home.
- ▶ The **reading assignments** will help build your knowledge.

Homework Assignments

- ▶ Complete the Casey Assessment and bring back the hard copy

End of Day One



**Thank you
for participating.**