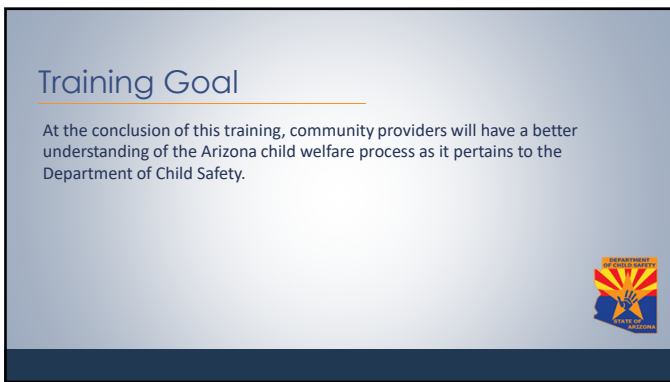
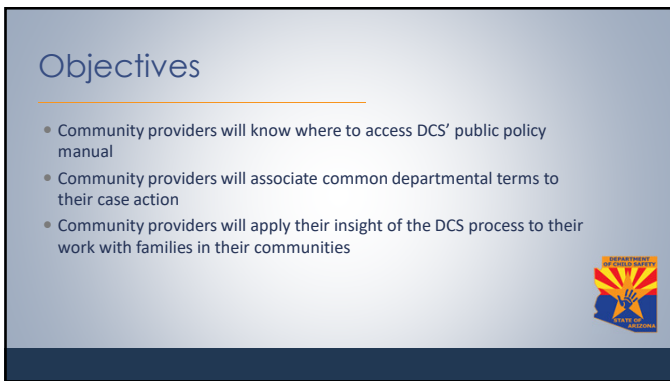




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Agenda

- Section 1: Defining Abuse, Neglect & DCS Policy Access
- Section 2: Overview of the Intake & Investigative Process
- Section 3: Establishing Ongoing Intervention and Court Intervention
- Section 4: Ongoing Permanency & Well-Being
- Section 5: Continuous Safety Assessments, Case Closures & Aftercare Planning



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Section 1


Defining Abuse & Neglect & DCS Policy Access

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Definitions of Abuse & Neglect

A.R.S. § 8-201


- Abuse
 - "infliction of or allowing of physical injury, impairment of bodily function or disfigurement"
 - Examples: Skin bruising, fractures, burns, malnutrition, failure to thrive, injury to internal organs, etc.
 - Sexual abuse (sexual assault, molestation, exploitation, etc)
 - Emotional abuse (Name calling, berating, targeting, etc)
- Neglect
 - "inability or unwillingness of a parent, guardian, or custodian to provide a child with [basic needs] if that inability or unwillingness causes an unreasonable risk of harm...to the child"
 - Examples: Domestic violence, substance abuse, mental health concerns, environmental concerns, substance exposed newborns, supervision concerns, etc.



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Public Access to DCS Policy

[HTTPS://extranet.azdcs.gov/DCSPolicy/](https://extranet.azdcs.gov/DCSPolicy/)




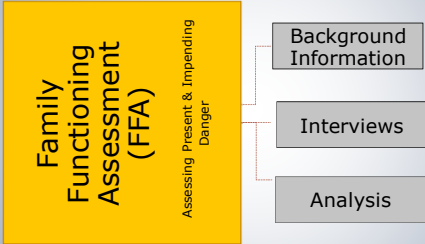
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Section 2

Overview of the Intake & Investigative Process

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Overview of the Investigation Process



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Overview of the Investigation Process, cont.


<p>Background Information</p> <p><u>Including:</u> Prior DCS history; Criminal Background checks; Court orders limiting or restricting contacts; Joint investigations and/or police involvement; Joint investigations of criminal conduct</p>	<p>Interviews</p> <p><u>Can Include:</u> Source; alleged victim; Children in the home; Parents/Legal Guardians; Other adults in the home; Non-Custodial parent; Alleged perpetrator; Collateral contacts</p>	<p>Analysis of The Safety Threshold Criteria</p> <p><u>To Determine:</u> Is there present danger; what are the risks, is there impending danger</p>
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Continue to Analysis →

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Analysis of The Safety Threshold Criteria

- Vulnerable Child
- Unmanaged
- Severity
- Observable
- Imminent




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Court Authorized Removals

DCS shall only take children into temporary custody under one of the following circumstances:

- The child's parent or guardian consents to placing their child in the temporary care of the Department.
- A dependency petition is filed and temporary orders from juvenile court place the child in the temporary custody of the Department.
- A court order is obtained from the superior court authorizing temporary custody.
- Temporary custody is clearly necessary to protect the child because exigent circumstances exist.



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In-Home Safety Analysis Questions & Conditions For Return

- **Question 1:** Safety Actions/Services?
- **Question 2:** Parent/Guardian/ Caregiver Willingness?
- **Question 3:** Calm/Consistent Environment?
- **Question 4:** Implement without professional evaluations?
- **Question 5:** Suitable place to reside?

- **Condition 1:** Obtain professional evaluations that make the answer "no" to the IHSA Question(s)
- **Condition 2:** Become a (genuinely) willing Parent/Guardian/ Caregiver
- **Condition 3:** Create a calm/consistent environment and behavioral changes.
- **Condition 4:** Obtain professional evaluations, solely focused on the management of the safety threat
- **Condition 5:** Obtain a suitable place to reside

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In-Home Services Provided by DCS During or After an Investigation

- The level of services provided to a family is determined on a case by case basis and/or by the court
- A service referral is also based on the level of risk involved in the family:
 - High Risk
 - Intensive Services
 - Family Preservation Services
 - Substance Exposed Newborn Safe Environment (SENSE) services
 - 90-120 days
 - Moderate Risk
 - Low Risk
- Family Support
 - Assistance getting necessary food, housing, clothing or medical care
 - Substance abuse testing and treatment
 - Counseling
 - Child Care
 - Parenting skills training

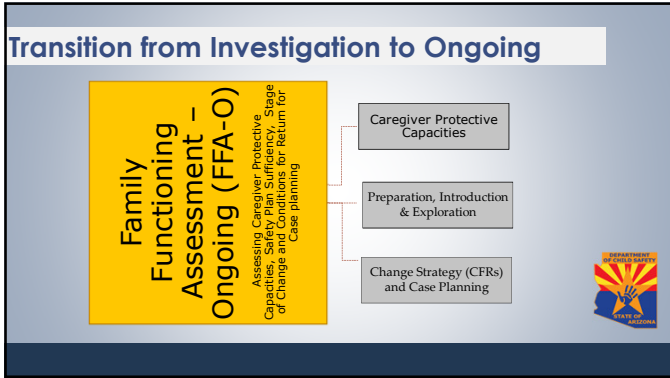


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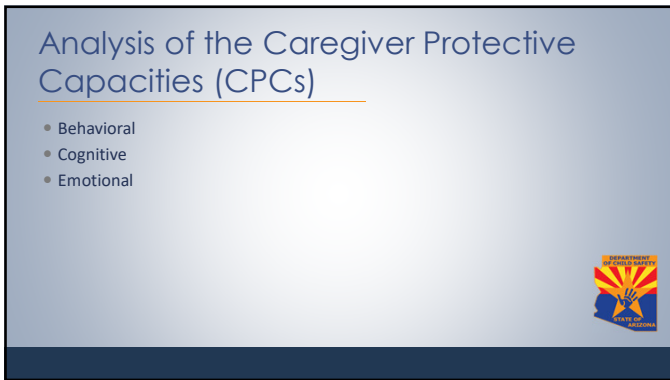
Section 3

Establishing Ongoing Intervention and Court Intervention

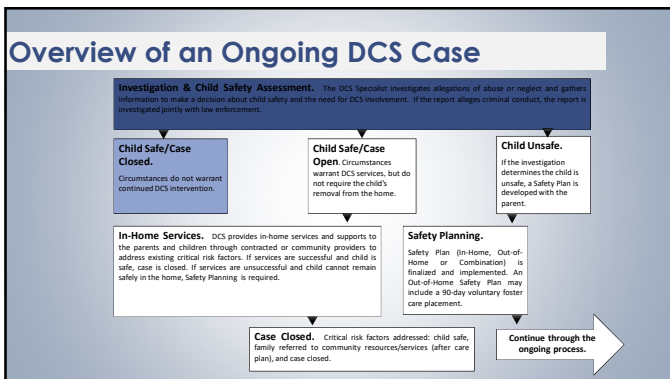
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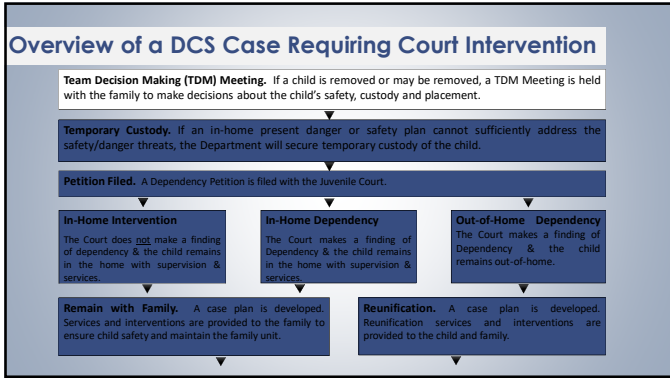
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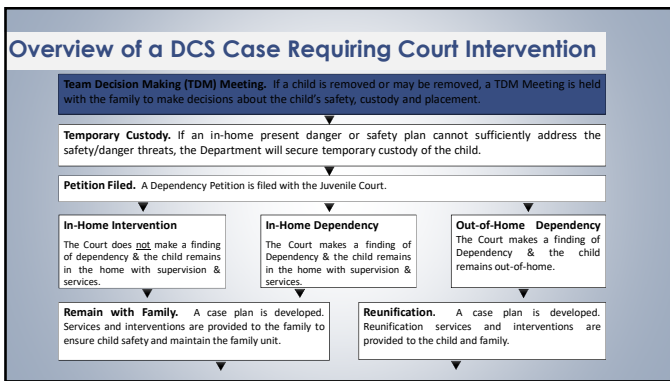
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Team Decision Making (TDM)

- Strength-based decision making process to address the safety and the least intrusive & restrictive placement of children.
- Driven by the Family Functioning Assessment (FFA) which discusses safety, concerns, & needs.
- Collaborative process involves DCS, family (custodial and non-custodial parents, foster parents, group care providers and the child, age 12 and older), family support, community members, educational staff, partnering agencies including as applicable, tribal representatives, etc.
- Educational needs of the child are discussed at the TDM.



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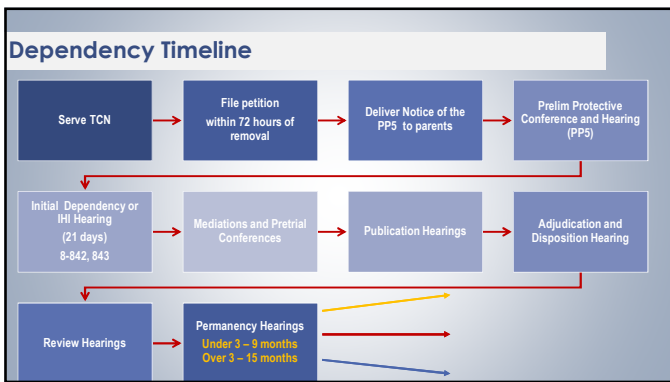
Parent Responsibilities

During DCS involvement, parents are expected to:

- Participate in recommended services as outlined in the case plan
- Actively participate in planning meetings (case plan staffings, team decision making meetings, child and family team meetings)
- Attend and participate in FCRB reviews and court hearings
- Provide DCS with information about the children
- Keep DCS informed about changes such as a new address, telephone number, job income, marriage, or other living changes
- Follow court orders
- Visit children regularly when they are in out-of-home placement
- If able, contribute to the cost of children's out-of-home care
- Keep appointments made with DCS, attorneys, therapists and others who are working with the family



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Section 4

Ongoing Permanency & Well-Being

24

Permanency & Well-Being

- Responsible for implementing case plan
- Monitoring the child's well-being, including placement services
- Report to the court and FCRB
- Assure child's social, emotional, educational, and physical needs are met
- Engaging parents and facilitating the progress in making the necessary behavioral changes that will improve their Protective Capacities.



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Case Planning & Case Plan Staffings

- Case Plans provide a clear and specific guide for the Specialist and the family for changing the behaviors and conditions that influence safety.
- A Case Plan Staffing is a scheduled meeting in which all members of the service team shall be invited to participate.

"Families who believe that their feelings and concerns are heard are more likely to engage in the case planning process"



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Court Involvement: Services for the Family

- DCS provides services to aide the family in making the necessary behavioral changes that will achieve and maintain permanency on behalf of the child, strengthen the family and provide prevention, intervention, and treatment for abused and neglected children
- DCS reviews family-requested informal services to include in the case plan



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Visitation

- DCS shall facilitate visitation and ongoing contact between a child in out-of-home care and the child's parents, siblings, and kin.
- Visitation shall take place in the most natural, family-like setting possible and with as little supervision as possible while still ensuring the safety and well-being of the child



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Medical & Dental Coverage

Comprehensive Medical Dental Program (CMDP)

- Health care program for Arizona's children and youth placed in out-of-home care.
- Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) acute care health plan children and youth placed in out-of-home care who are Medicaid eligible.
- Statewide and covers children out of state through the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) until they are enrolled in another state's Medicaid plan.



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Coordination of Care

Regional Behavioral Health Authority

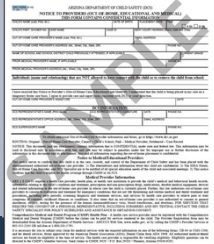
- At this time, RHBA's cover Behavioral Health Care for children in out-of-home care.
- CMDP Behavior Health (BH) Unit helps to coordinate with each region
 - Steward Health Care
 - Mercy Care
 - Arizona Complete Health
- If a child is in need of coordination and advocacy please reach out to our BH Unit: (602)351-2245, Option 2 or CMDPBHUnit@AZDCS.gov




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CMDP

Notice to Provider



CMDP ID Card




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Coverage

Co-Pays are not required for any CMDP covered services

- CMDP covers all medically necessary health care services for the infant, child, and adolescent (0-21)
- Online you can:
 - Check Member Eligibility
 - Search for Providers
 - Find PA Forms
 - Review PA Matrix
 - Check claims status
 - <https://dcs.az.gov/services/comprehensive-medical-dental-program-cmdp/providers>



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Contact Us

CMDP Main Line: (602) 351-2245

Medical Fax: (602) 351-8529

Provider Services: CMDPProviderServices@azdcs.gov

Medical Services: CMDPNurse@azdcs.gov

Member Services: CMDPMemberServices@azdcs.gov

CRS: CMDPProviderServices@azdcs.gov

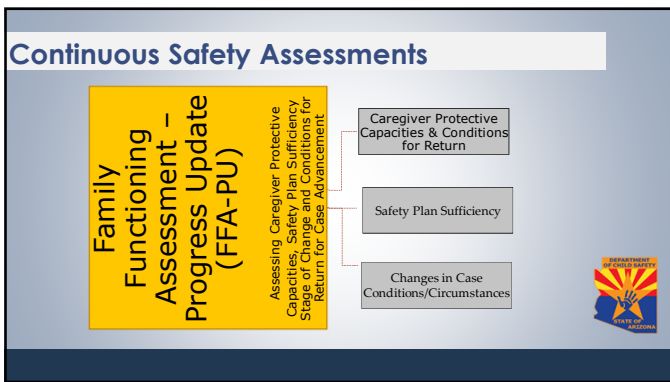


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Section 5

Continuous Safety Assessments, Case Closures & Aftercare Planning

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Family Functioning Assessment - Progress Update


- The Continuous Child Safety & Risk Assessment (C-CSRA) as a tool
- Tells the "Story" of the family while in DCS, from the start of the investigation until now.
- The FFA- Progress Update is updated and documented in the C-CSRA at various points during the case:
 - minimally every 90 days;
 - at case plan reassessment and revision;
 - when there is an indication that the child may be unsafe;
 - when circumstances indicate a substantial change has occurred or is anticipated to occur within the family, including: changes in household composition (additions or departures of individuals from the household);
 - when changing the permanency goal;
 - when considering unsupervised visits;
 - when considering reunification; or
 - when considering case closure."

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Case Closure:
Out-of-Home Dependency – Family Reunification

Successful Reunification:

- The safety threats are resolved
- Family Reunification services may be provided to assist with the transition of the children back into the home
- The children may remain in the legal custody of DCS for a period of time after the physical custody of the children is returned to the parent(s)
- This allows the Court to oversee the transition and ensure the children remain safe
- Ultimately, the court dismisses the Dependency Petition and returns legal and physical custody of the children to the parent(s)
- Aftercare plan developed 30 day prior to court dismissal
- The DCS case is then closed



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Case Closure: Other Permanency Options

<p>Adoption. Parental rights are terminated and the child is adopted.</p>	<p>Guardianship. Permanent Guardianship between a child and the caregiver when adoption is remote or not in the child's best interest.</p>	<p>Independent Living. Permanent living arrangement which includes specialized services for adolescents to transition to adulthood.</p>
<p>Case Closed. Permanency achieved. Court dismisses Dependency Petition and case is closed.</p>		<p>Team Decision Making (TDM) Meeting. A TDM Meeting is held to discuss the option of a Voluntary Agreement or a Discharge Plan for a youth who exits foster care at 18 or 21.</p>
<p>Aftercare Planning Develop a plan that addresses topics like health insurance, transition independent living programs (TILP) services, re-entry to DCS, education, employment and mental health with the youth.</p>		<p>Voluntary Agreement. Youth can voluntarily remain in foster care under supervision of DES from 18 to 21 years of age.</p>
<p>Case Closed. If a child does not wish to sign a Voluntary Agreement, the case is closed on their 18th birthday or if a youth signs a Voluntary Agreement, the case is closed on his/her 21st birthday.</p>		

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Aftercare Planning


- Occurs either at the close of an investigation, in-home services (voluntary or court ordered), reunification, & transition into the Arizona Young Adult Program (AYAP)
- Provides a roadmap for the family to continue to strengthen their Caregiver Protective Capacities



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Thank you

Your support and collaborative efforts in protecting Arizona's children and improving outcomes for families are appreciated.



For questions, please contact: Patricia Wenzel - Program Specialist, Central Region
Patricia.Wenzel@azdcs.gov - (602) 771-0677
