

Fact Sheet

for FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENTS

WHAT ARE THE DCYF *Internal Case Reviews?*

The DCYF internal case reviews is a process by which the Department looks at agency activity to:

- Ensure conformity with federal child welfare requirements;
- Determine what is actually happening to children and families as they are engaged in child welfare services; and
- Assist states in enhancing their capacity to help children and families achieve positive outcomes.

The reviews are structured to help states identify strengths and areas needing improvement within their agencies and programs.

Ultimately, the goal of the Internal Case Reviews is to help the Department improve child welfare services and achieve the following **seven outcomes** for families and children who receive services:

Safety

- Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.
- Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.

Permanency

- Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.
- The continuity of family relationships and connections are preserved for families.

Family and Child Well-Being

- Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.
- Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.
- Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.



The INTERNAL REVIEWS Process

The on-site review process is a comprehensive review taking place at the Providence Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) office and includes the following:

- A review of documents in the record to include: medical, education, legal, correspondence, caseworker notes, provider notes, service plans, and other pertinent documents in the case record and electronic record; and
- Interviews with children, parents, the caseworker, and other people involved in the case to provide information which may not be included in the case record.

After reviewing all the data and information received, DCYF determines how the state's performance meeting federal requirements in safety, permanency and well-being, and whether the children and families are having positive outcomes. The state determines where strengths exist in the system, and where there may be areas needing improvement, the latter to be addressed with performance improvement plans.

OPPORTUNITIES *for Your* INVOLVEMENT

The DCYF internal case reviews brings people together who can make a difference in state child welfare systems. As a foster or adoptive parent, your first-hand experience is important. You can supply vital information to help make systemic improvements and improve outcomes for children and their families.

As a foster or adoptive parent, you can be involved in the internal case reviews process by taking part in case related interviews which focus on a specific child who is placed with you or has been place with you in the past. These interviews give you a chance to share how DCYF worked with you and the child in your home.

The information you share is confidential and will not be shared with your caseworker. While the information will not have any impact the child's case, your feedback provides information on how children and families are served. In case related interviews, you may be asked questions such as:

- Did DCYF assess your needs as a foster parent or pre-adoptive parent? Did they provide services to address any identified needs?
- How often did DCYF agency assess the needs of the child in your home and did your child get the services he or she needed?
- If the child was on medication, how was the medication monitored?



YOUR VOICE MATTERS

The voice of families is critical to the CFSR process.

Making positive changes that help children and families begins with understanding what families working with the child welfare system are experiencing.

We hope you will speak out and tell us about your experience.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Additional information on the federal Child and Family Services Reviews is available on the Children's Bureau's website at :

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/monitoring/child-family-services-reviews>

or from

The Child Welfare Reviews Project

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