

Early Interventions in a Dependency Case

Beyond the Bench, 2013

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What's Happening Before Dependency Mediation?



CPS Intervention

- Referral assessed at hotline using an intervention assessment tool
- Allegations must meet a legal basis for intervention
- Hotline assesses information to determine level of intervention required
- Assigned as immediate or 10 day referral



CPS Investigation

- CPS worker assesses to determine if safety issues exist
- Safety issues can be mitigated with a safety plan
- Safety issues may require immediate removal



CPS Investigation

- CPS worker assesses for risk
- Risk is future based
- High risk does not necessarily warrant removal
- Assessment of safety and risk determines level of CPS intervention



CPS Assessment Tools

- Structured Decision Making (SDM)- 54 counties in California
- Comprehensive Assessment Tool (CAT)- 4 counties in California
- Hotline response determination tool



CPS Assessment Tools

- Safety and risk assessment tool
- Family strengths and needs assessment tool
- Reunification tool
- CPS makes determination of disposition: unfounded, inconclusive or substantiated



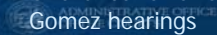
Child Abuse Central Index (CACI)

- Database of child abuse investigation reports maintained by DOJ
- Performs searches for CPS, law enforcement, licensing agencies & employers
- Lists substantiated reports from all counties in California
- Build legal cases and stop repeat offenders



CACI Due Process

- Lists substantiated reports for abuse
- Physical, sexual, emotional & severe neglect
- No longer includes inconclusive findings
- Notification to offender required for substantiated report
- Offender has due process rights
- Grievance reviews for substantiated findings- Gomez hearings



What Should You Know About Mandated Reporting?

Mediators are not mandated reporters
CRC 5.518 references local protocols



CPS Services

- Legal requirement to provide pre-placement preventative services
- Services provided to family to mitigate safety/risk
- Differential response
- Voluntary family maintenance- non court intervention



CPS Services

- Unable to mitigate safety- removal is required
- Petition filed in court
- Voluntary family maintenance- court involvement
- Family reunification
- Permanent plan- legal guardianship, adoption



Intervention Tools

- Team decision making meetings (TDM)
- Family group conferencing (FGC)
- Family Team meetings (FTM)
- Dependency mediation



Dependency Mediation

- Disposition
- Placement
- Visitation
- Adoption
- Post adoption contact