

Child Placement

Background Notes

Removing children from the care of their parents can be a traumatic experience for the children, parents, relatives and even the caseworker. We can sometimes lessen the trauma if the removal can be planned and/or if we can engage the parent in understanding the safety concerns and have the parent help transition the child. For instance, sometimes parents are willing to help their child pack their clothes and a few special things or help their child go with the caseworker. An even better option is if the child can be placed with a relative or close family friend if they meet minimum standards for a Temporary Certificate.

Tasks / Assignments:

- Arrange with your Supervisor to shadow a worker who is making a decision to remove a child from an unsafe environment.
- Discuss with the worker the critical factors that led to the decision that placement was needed to keep the child safe.
- Talk with the worker about the emotional impact on the child.
- Ask the worker how they determine the most appropriate placement for the child?
- Ask the worker to explain the reasonable efforts finding to you.

Discoveries:

- *How does the worker help the child deal with their grief and the impact of the separation?*
- *How does the worker help the child transition to a foster/relative home?*
- *What is the worker's legal mandate when a child has been removed from a parent/caregivers home?*
- *How does the worker document reasonable efforts?*
- *What information about the child does the worker share with the foster or relative caregiver?*