

Child Placement

Background Notes

Removing children from the care of their parents can be a traumatic experience for the children, the parents, relatives and even the caseworker. It is especially difficult when children have a strong attachment to their parents and extended family members. We can sometimes lessen the trauma if the removal can be planful 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.

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.
- How does the worker help the child to deal with their grief and the impact of the separation?
- How does the worker help the child to 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?
- How does the worker determine the most appropriate placement for the child?

Discoveries:

