



**CORE TRAINING FOR
RESOURCE
FAMILIES**

SESSION FOUR
*Understanding the
office of children's
services and an
overview of the Indian
child welfare act*

ALASKA
CENTER FOR
RESOURCE FAMILIES

Written and Produced by the Alaska Center for Resource Families and Funded by the Alaska
Department of Family and Community Services.


AK | DFCS

OFFICE OF
CHILDREN'S
SERVICES

1

MISSION
Ensuring the safety, permanence and well-being of
children by strengthening families, engaging
communities, and partnering with tribes.

VISION
SAFE CHILDREN • STRONG FAMILIES




**Role of office
of children's
services**

OFFICE OF
CHILDREN'S
SERVICES

- Must follow all Federal and State laws
- Investigates and monitors child protective services cases
- Responsible for licensing foster homes and making placement agencies available

2



When does ocs intervene?

Child in Need of Aid or C.I.N.A

3

12 conditions when OCS may intervene

- Neglect
- Substance Abuse
- Abandonment
- Failure to Provide Medical Treatment
- Mental Illness
- Unwilling Caregiver
- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Delinquent Child as a Result of Parental Actions
- Mental Injury
- Runaway at Risk of Harm
- Incarcerated Parent

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Mandatory Reporting



- Resource families are mandated reporters under State of Alaska statute: AS 47.17.020(a)
- A mandated reporter is required to report suspected abuse or neglect
- HB 49 and reporting suspected sexual abuse

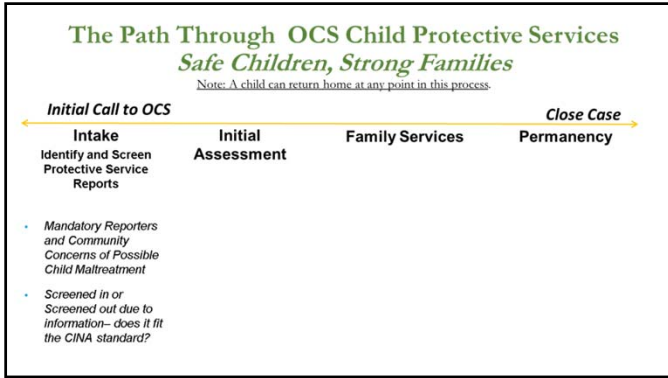
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The Path Through OCS Child Protective Services

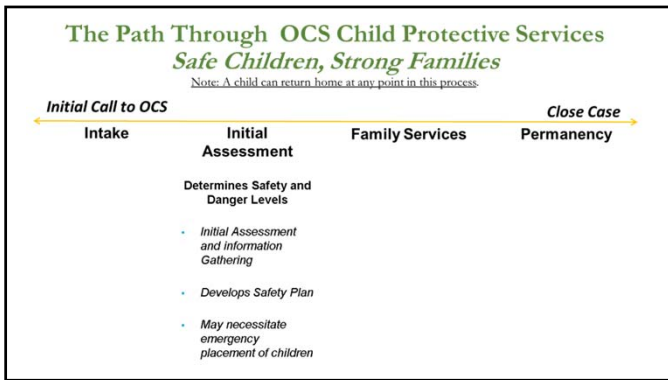
Note: A child can return home at any point in this process.



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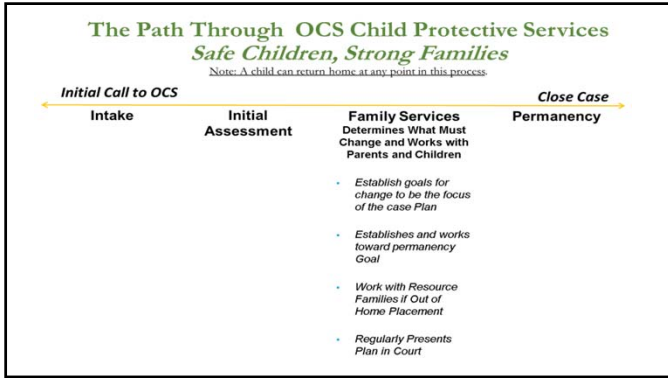
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Initial assessment- team decision making meetings (TDM)

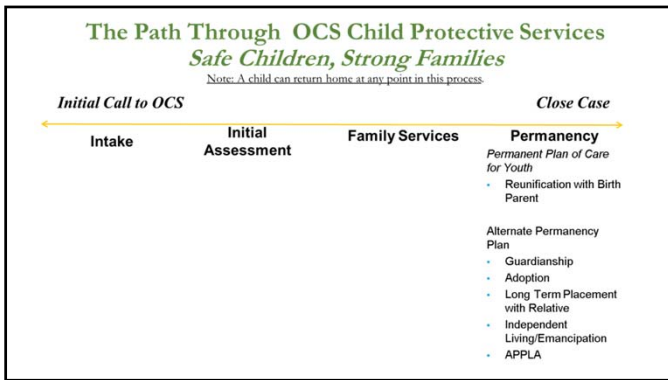
- Held when children first come into care and when children move between placements
- Gathers many voices around the table to discuss options for placement and support
- Led by trained facilitator who is not associated with the case
- Teams work together to plan placement or transition



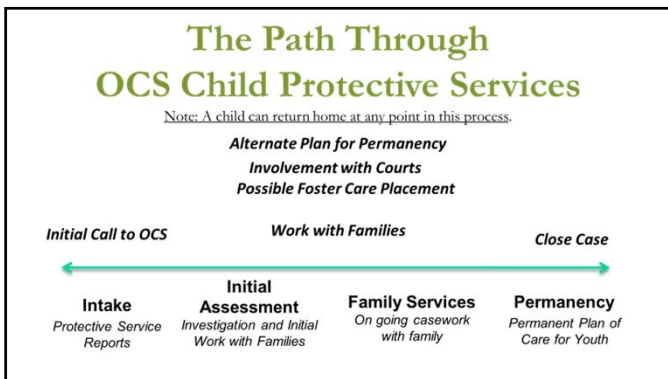
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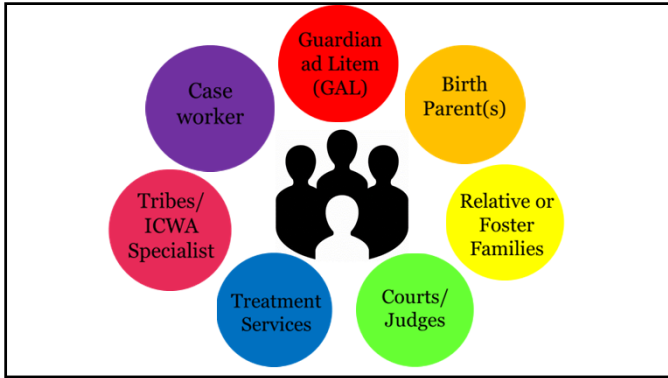
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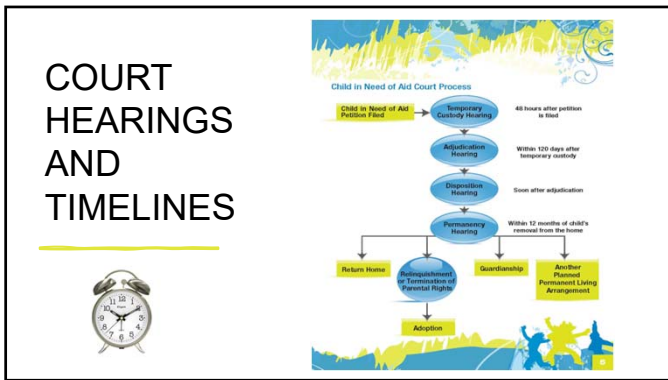
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INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT (ICWA)



- A Federal Law passed in 1978 to protect AI/AN when children come into a state's child protective services system.
- Intent is to preserve tribal families and communities
- Based on tribal membership or eligibility for membership
- Gives tribes the right to be involved and/or become a legal party to the case (or intervene)

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ICWA Applies to Federally Recognized Tribes



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Protecting Our Children and Our Future: An Alaska Produced Video on the Indian Child Welfare Act



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INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT



The tribes have the right to be notified and intervene in a child protection case involving an Indian child

Tribes may also request jurisdiction in child protection cases

Active efforts with the family applies

ICWA Placement Preferences apply if child comes into custody

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PLACEMENT
PREFERENCE
IN FOSTER
CARE FOR
INDIAN OR
ALASKA
NATIVE
CHILDREN

- **First:** Member of child's extended family
- **Second:** Foster home licensed, approved or specified by the Tribe
- **Third:** Indian FH licensed or approved by a non-Indian licensing authority
- **Fourth:** An institution for children approved by an Indian tribe or operated by an Indian organization which has a program suitable to meet the Indian child's needs.

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PLACEMENT
PREFERENCES FOR
ADOPTION OF INDIAN
AND ALASKA NATIVE
CHILDREN



- **First:** A member of the child's extended family
- **Second:** Other members of the Indian child's tribe
- **Third:** Other Indian families

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THIS MEANS SEVERAL THINGS OF
IMPORTANCE FOR RESOURCE FAMILIES:

01

Families need to meet a different standard for adoption.

02

Tribes can become a legal party at any time during the process.

03

If adoption is the plan, relatives must be notified.

04

A tribe can approve a family for guardianship or adoption.

05

Resource families should actively support cultural connections.

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Today's assignment!

How can you help support cultural connections for the child in your home?