

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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Issue 21-11

Date: 06/17/21

Reminder About Releasing Children to Non-Offending Parents, Including Fathers

This is a reminder that when CSWs are conducting child abuse/neglect investigations and they are considering removing custody of any child(ren) from a parent/legal guardian, CSWs are required to place the child(ren) in the care of a non-offending parent. A child should not be placed in foster care when they have a non-offending parent who is ready, willing, and able to provide them with adequate care. The only exemption to this is if the investigating CSW finds by clear and convincing evidence that placement with that parent would be detrimental to the safety, protection, or physical or emotional well-being of the child.

As a reminder, CSWs are to assess risk by determining the non-offending parent's (NOP) ability/willingness to protect the child and should consider the following:

- NOP's understanding of the alleged abuse
- NOP's suspicion/knowledge that the abuse/neglect was happening
- NOP's action, or lack of action, in response to this suspicion/knowledge
- NOP's reason for acting or not acting
- Denial, justification, minimization, projection of blame and responsibility
- Willingness and ability to engage in developing a protection plan.

As a general practice, CSW must make all efforts to identify, locate/find, engage, assess, service, and release children to non-offending parents. This FYI is particularly directed at enriching current social work practice with respect to fathers. Please see list of related policies:

- [0070-548.20, Taking Children into Temporary Custody](#)
- [0070-536.10 Assessment of Parental Incapacity, Absence or Failure to Provide Adequate Shelter](#)
- [0300-303.15, Writing the Detention Report](#)
- [0300-301.05, Filing Petitions](#)
- [0300-306.05, Noticing Process for Juvenile Court Proceedings](#)
- [0300-306.75, Due Diligence](#)
- [0070-559.10, Clearances](#)
- [0300-503.41, WIC 388 Petitions: Response Reports](#)
- [0080-507.22, Permanency Partners Program \(P3\)](#)

For further information/guidance on implementing, monitoring, and sustaining innovative practice, CSWs can visit the ["Father Engagement and Father Involvement Toolkit" \(CaISWEC\)](#)



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If you have any questions regarding this release please e-mail your question to:

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