

# Child Welfare Services: Emergency Response

## FAQ's

### What is child abuse?

Child abuse includes physical abuse, severe neglect, general neglect, sexual abuse, and emotional maltreatment. Any act that endangers or impairs a child's physical or emotional health should be suspected as child abuse, regardless of degree of severity.

### Do I have to make a report if I think a child is being abused?

Any person who suspects child abuse or neglect should report it. However, certain individuals such as day care providers, school personnel, medical personnel, law enforcement, social workers, therapist, eligibility workers, and commercial film and photographic print processors are required by law to file such reports. They are called mandated reporters. Mandated reporters are required to give their names when making a report.

### What is the purpose of the law?

To protect children and to provide help for the parents. The report of abuse may be a catalyst for bringing about change in the home, which in turn may help to lower the risk of further abuse in the home.

### If I report suspected child abuse or neglect, will you tell the parents who reported it?

The Department makes every effort to keep confidential the mandated reporters name, however it may be disclosed as follows; between child protective agencies, to legal counsel representing a child in a court case, to the district attorney in a criminal prosecution, and by court order. However, the parents may guess, based on the information provided, who reported the abuse. It is common for parents to state that they know who reported, however this knowledge is really only their suspicion.

## How to Report

Complete the Suspected Child Abuse Report before you call the CPS Abuse Reporting Hotline for Yolo County. ([http://caag.state.ca.us\childabuse\pdf\ss\\_8572.pdf](http://caag.state.ca.us\childabuse\pdf\ss_8572.pdf))

530-669-2345 Intake

530-661-3630 (fax)

During the evening, at night, weekends and on holidays, Dispatch will contact the on call social worker to respond to phone calls or investigate emergency situations of abuse and neglect. Supervisors are also on duty for case consultations and supervision.

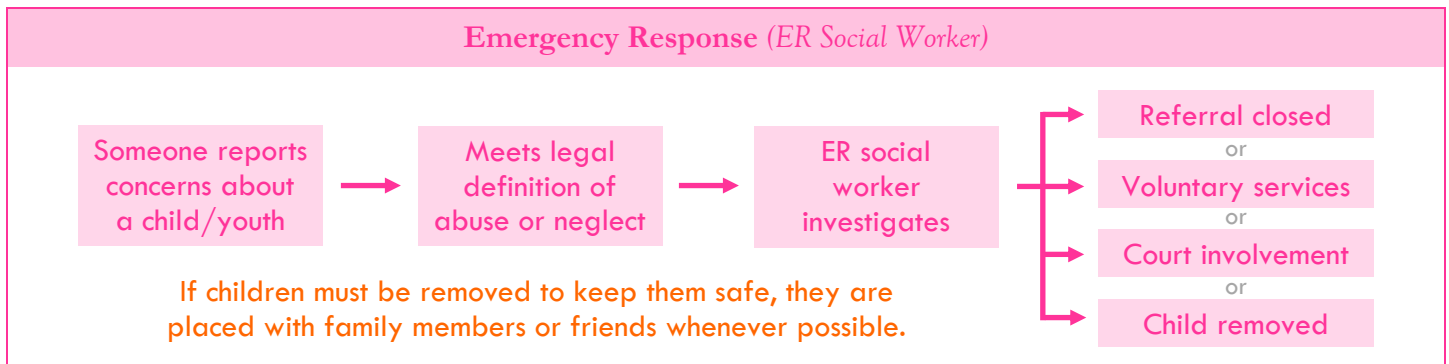
Reports should be as detailed as possible, but please do not investigate.

Provide information on the child and family's support network. Also, consider if the parent is taking any steps at ensuring the child's safety or if the parent and child have any strengths that CWS can rely upon to help in safety planning with the family.

**WE WELCOME CONSULTATION CALLS.** Please call and utilize the expertise of our intake social workers to consult on when/if a mandated report is necessary and what community resources may be available.

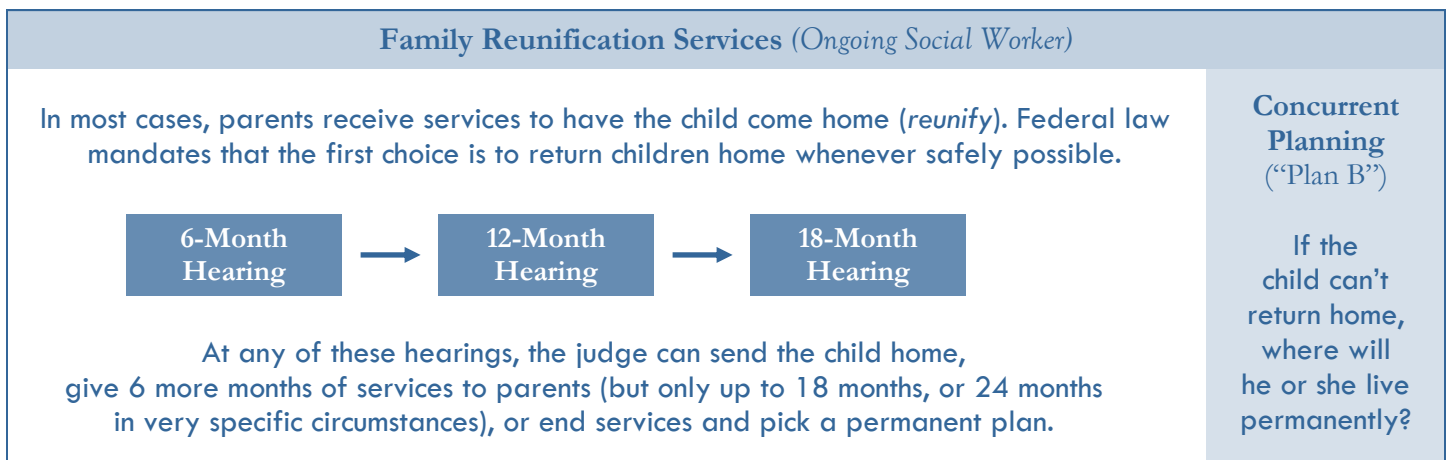


# The Juvenile Dependency Court Process When a Child is Removed



**Family Support Meetings**

Happen at any time in a case to make decisions about safety or case planning.

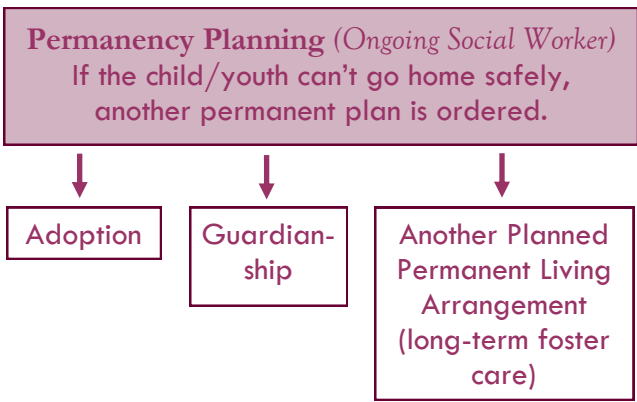


**Concurrent Planning ("Plan B")**

If the child can't return home, where will he or she live permanently?

**Family Maintenance Services (Ongoing Social Worker)**

After a child goes home, the social worker keeps working with the family until the judge orders the case to close, usually for at least 6 months.



**Extended Foster Care (Transition Age Youth Social Worker)**

When youth turn 18 while in the foster care system, they are eligible to remain in care voluntarily as a non-minor dependent until their 21st birthday.





**Child Welfare Services**

**Child Welfare Services (CWS) Overview**

Program	Description	Timeframe	Population Served
<b>Emergency Response (ER)</b>	ER takes calls and assesses reports of suspected child abuse and neglect. Reports that meet criteria are assigned for investigation as a referral. On immediate referrals, social workers go out within 2 hours. On 10-day referrals, social workers go out within 10 calendar days. The social worker investigates the allegations and determines whether or not abuse or neglect occurred.	Up to 30 days	Referrals are accepted for children from birth until they turn 18.
<b>Voluntary Family Maintenance (VFM)</b>	When a referral is investigated and it is safe for the child to remain in the home but there is high risk of future maltreatment, VFM services are offered to parents. VFM services are short-term, intensive services that help stabilize families to address children’s current and future safety.	6-12 months	Parents of children aged 0-17 who are at high risk of future maltreatment.
<b>Court-Ordered Family Maintenance (FM)</b>	When a VFM case is not sufficient to ensure child safety, CWS can file a petition requesting that the court take jurisdiction over a child while he or she remains in the care of his or her parents. Parents are court-ordered to complete services to address the issues that caused the safety concerns for their children. In cases where parents successfully complete Family Reunification services and the child is returned home, FM services are also provided for at least 6 months after the family reunifies.	At least 6 months, or for as long as the family needs	Parents of children aged 0-17 whose safety requires court intervention.
<b>Family Reunification (FR)</b>	When there is no way to keep children safe in their parents’ care, CWS files a petition to remove, or detain, the child. The child is placed temporarily with a relative, non-related extended family member or foster parent while the parents receive FR services to help them reunify with their child. If parents are able to resolve the safety concerns, their children are returned to their care.	6-18 months (can be up to 24 months in some circumstances)	Parents of children aged 0-17 who cannot remain safely with their parents.
<b>Permanency Planning (PP)</b>	If parents are unable to resolve the safety concerns that led to the removal of the child, Family Reunification services are terminated and an alternate permanent plan is identified. The plan may be adoption, guardianship or long-term foster care.	Until a child turns 18	Children for whom FR services were terminated to their parents.
<b>Extended Foster Care</b>	Youth who turn age 18 while in foster care are eligible to remain voluntarily in extended foster care until their 21 <sup>st</sup> birthday. Youth in extended foster care are known as “non-minor dependents,” and they retain all the rights of adults while continuing to benefit from the financial and practical support of CWS.	As long as youth remains voluntarily, up to age 21	Youth ages 18-21 who were in foster care on their 18 <sup>th</sup> birthday.
<b>Independent Living Program (ILP)</b>	ILP provides services and education to help youth and young adults who have been in the foster care system transition successfully to adulthood. Youth receive stipends for attending classes on subjects such as financial literacy, job readiness, healthy relationships, applying for college, and much more. ILP also provides additional supports to help youth become independent, successful young adults.	Ages 14-21	Youth ages 14-21 who are currently or were formerly in foster care.

Program	Description	Timeframe	Population Served
<b>Transitional Housing Program – Plus (THP+)</b>	THP+ is a supportive housing program for youth ages 21-25 who exited the foster care system after age 18. THP+ provides housing, financial assistance and a monthly stipend, as well as case management services to support young adults after exiting the foster care system.	Ages 21-25 for up to 3 years	Former foster youth aged 21-25.
<b>Family Support Meetings (FSM)</b>	FSMs are a process of bringing together a family and their support network to plan for safety for a child or youth. FSMs are used to work to prevent removal of children when safely possible, to plan for a child’s appropriate placement, to conduct case planning with a family, to plan for a child’s return home, and for other reasons throughout the life of a case.	Any time needed during a case	CWS referrals and cases.
<b>Resource Family Approval (RFA)</b>	RFA is the process of approving relative, non-related extended family member, or foster caregivers to take placement of children who have been removed from their parents’ care. Caregivers are approved to provide temporary care and to become a child’s permanent plan in the event that they cannot return to the care of their parents.	Approval process takes up to 3 months	Relative, non-related extended family member and foster caregivers.