

**CORE TRAINING FOR
RESOURCE FAMILIES**

SESSION FIVE
*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 State of
Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Offices of Children's Services.

AK DFCS ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES OFFICES OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES




**WELCOME! WHO IS
HERE WITH US
TODAY?**

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES IN ALASKA



**OFFICE OF
CHILDREN'S
SERVICES**



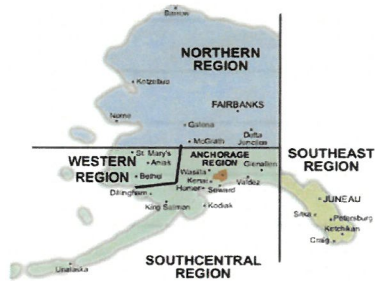
MISSION
To ensure the safety, well-being, and development of all children in Alaska by providing a continuum of services that support families and the community.

VISION
A safe, healthy, and thriving Alaska.

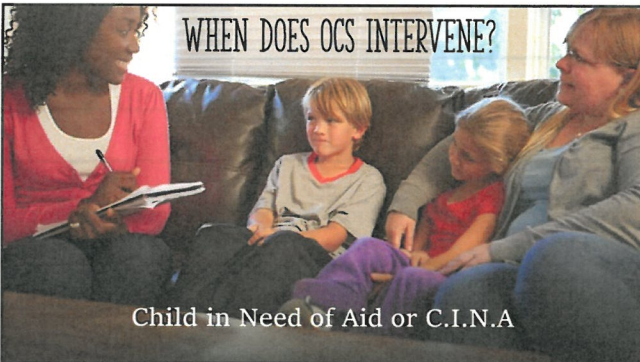
ROLE OF OFFICE OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

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

5 REGIONAL OFFICES



WHEN DOES OCS INTERVENE?



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

12 CONDITIONS OCS INTERVENES

- 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

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

The Path Through OCS Child Protective Services

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



The Path Through OCS Child Protective Services *Safe Children, Strong Families*

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

Initial Call to OCS Close Case

Intake Initial Assessment Family Services Permanency

Intake
Identify and Screen
Protective Service
Reports

- Mandatory Reporters and Community Concerns of Possible Child Maltreatment
- Screened in or Screened out due to information- does it fit the CINA standard?

The Path Through OCS Child Protective Services *Safe Children, Strong Families*

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

Initial Call to OCS Close Case

Intake Initial Assessment Family Services Permanency

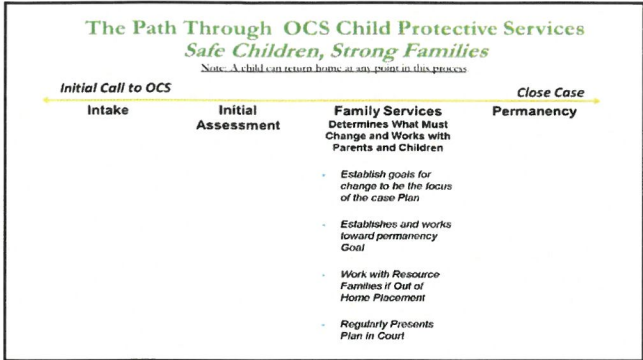
Initial Assessment
Determines Safety and
Danger Levels

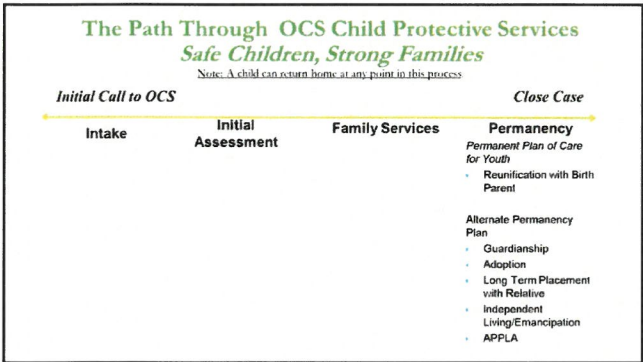
- Initial Assessment and Information Gathering
- Develops Safety Plan
- May necessitate emergency placement of children

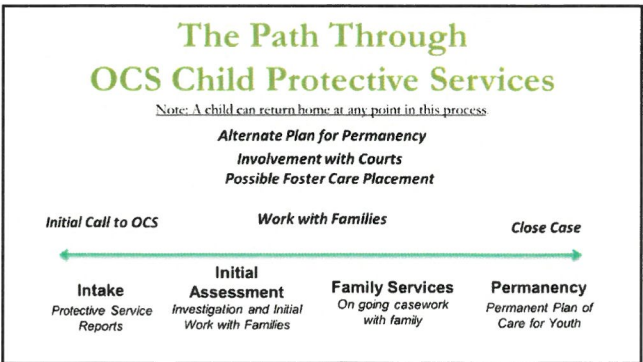
INITIAL ASSESSMENT- TEAM DECISION MAKING MEETINGS (TDM)

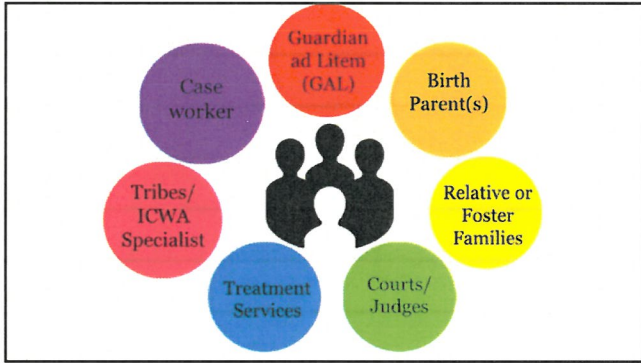
- Held when children first come into care and when children move between placements
- Gathers many voices around the table to discuss options for placement and support
- Led by trained facilitator who is not associated with the case
- Teams try to reach a consensus of what happens next for the family

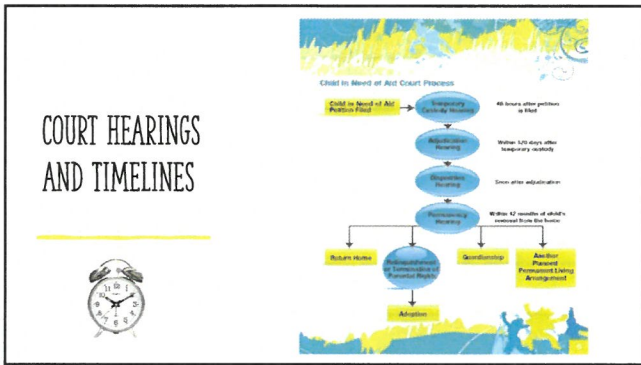













INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT (ICWA)



- A Federal Act establishing placement preferences for Indian children in foster care and in adoptive placements
- Passed in 1978, most ICWA provisions became effective in 1979
- Based on tribal membership or eligibility for tribal membership
- Alaska Native tribes identified by federal recognition established in ANCSA

ICWA APPLIES TO FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES





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

ICWA PREFERENCE PLACEMENTS

- Preference for Relative Placement, Placement with a Tribal Member or another Indian family.
- Family members and tribe must be notified when permanency goal changes.
- Resource families should keep children connected to family and culture.



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.

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

THIS MEANS SEVERAL THINGS OF IMPORTANCE:

01

Families need to meet a different standard

02

Tribes can elect to intervene during the OCS process

03

A tribe can approve a family for adoption

ANY QUESTIONS,
COMMENTS,
FEEDBACK?