

Family Preservation Services, Child Safety Conferences and 4 Questions

March 20, 2025



Overview

Family Preservation Services (FPS)

Child Safety Conferences (CSC)


4 Questions

Family Preservation Services (FPS)



Family Preservation Services (FPS)

- ▶ Services are:
 - Short term
 - Intensive
 - Home-based
 - Crisis interventions
- ▶ All targeted to families who have children at **imminent risk** of removal and placement into foster care.



GOAL: Offer families in crisis the ability to remain together safely, avoiding out-of-home placement of children whenever possible.

Skill-based interventions

Flexibility based on each family's unique needs





Eligibility

- ▶ Families at imminent risk of child removal and foster care placement

Call AND email the referral

Expectations

- ▶ Meeting within 24 hours of referral
- ▶ 8 face-to-face contacts
- ▶ 10 calendar days per unit
 - Maximum 3 units
- ▶ Notes due within 1 business day



Worker Responsibilities

Support

Assist

Focus on
the safety
concerns



Safety Plan

Identify who will participate to assure safety of the child,

Identify who will monitor the safety plan, and

Identify the duration of the safety plan.

Document the actions taken or services initiated to address each identified current danger indicator.

Address how behaviors, conditions, and circumstances associated with the current danger indicators will be controlled.

A safety plan is designed to manage the foreseeable dangers in the least restrictive manner.



Motivational Interviewing

Helps identify

- ▶ What is not working
- ▶ Skills
- ▶ Resources
- ▶ Steps of progress that will indicate success

Four primary techniques

- ▶ Open-ended questions
- ▶ Affirmations
- ▶ Reflective listening
- ▶ Summaries



Child Safety Conferences



Goal:

HHS works with the family, parent partner, and FPS to keep the child at home





Eligibility

- ▶ Families receiving FPS

Expectations

- ▶ Initial meeting within 3 business days of referral
- ▶ Follow up meeting within 10 calendar days of the initial meeting

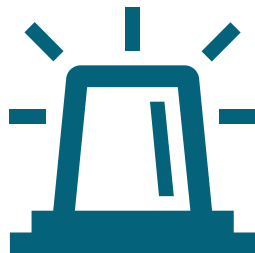


Child Safety Conferences

- ▶ Child safety conference introduction script
- ▶ Why we are here – parent(s)/guardian(s) identify
- ▶ Strengths (cooperation/strengths observed)
- ▶ Clarification of safety concern and review of the safety plan - HHS
- ▶ How to ensure safety of the child(ren)
 - Ideas from parent(s)/guardian(s)
 - Team input
- ▶ Action steps – make sure parent(s)/guardian(s) agree
- ▶ CSC funding needs may be identified
- ▶ Create plan b
- ▶ Schedule CSC follow up meeting



Creative Funding Uses



Door alarms



Vacuum
cleaner/cleaning
supplies



Medication lock box



New crib and
mattress



Follow Up



Follow up
meeting

Notes from child
safety
conferences



4 Questions



1. What can we do to remove the danger instead of the child?
2. Can someone the child/family knows move into the home to remove the danger?
3. Can the caregiver and child go live with relative/fictive kin?
4. Could child move temporarily to live with relative or fictive kin?



Ex Parte Removal Order

- ▶ Iowa code 232.78 Temporary custody of a child pursuant to ex parte court order.
- ▶ The juvenile court may enter an ex parte order directing a peace officer or a juvenile court officer to take custody of a child before or after the filing of a petition



Questions?



Health and
Human Services