

Kenosha County



Human Services Committee Meeting
Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.
Administration Building - 1010 56th Street, Kenosha, WI
2nd Floor Committee Room

Agenda

NOTE: UNDER THE KENOSHA COUNTY BOARD RULES OF PROCEDURE ANY REPORT, RESOLUTION, ORDINANCE OR MOTION APPEARING ON THIS AGENDA MAY BE AMENDED, WITHDRAWN, REMOVED FROM THE TABLE, RECONSIDERED OR RESCINDED IN WHOLE OR IN PART AT THIS OR AT FUTURE MEETINGS. NOTICE OF SUCH MOTIONS TO RECONSIDER OR RESCIND AT FUTURE MEETINGS SHALL BE GIVEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 2 C OF THE COUNTY BOARD RULES. FURTHERMORE, ANY MATTER DEEMED BY A MAJORITY OF THE BOARD TO BE GERMANE TO AN AGENDA ITEM MAY BE DISCUSSED AND ACTED UPON DURING THE COURSE OF THIS MEETING AND ANY NEW MATTER NOT GERMANE TO AN AGENDA ITEM MAY BE REFERRED TO THE PROPER COMMITTEE. ANY PERSON WHO DESIRES THE PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR PRIOR TO AN AGENDA ITEM BEING DISCUSSED SHOULD REQUEST A COUNTY BOARD SUPERVISOR TO CALL SUCH REQUEST TO THE ATTENTION OF THE BOARD CHAIRMAN.

1. Call To Order / Roll Call
2. Citizen's Comments
3. Chairman's / Committee Members / Supervisors / YIG Comments
4. Kenosha County DCFS-Child Protective Services: Safety, Permanence, And Well-Being – Ron Rogers

Documents:

[HSC 03 07 23 - CPS SAFETY PERMANENCE AND WELL-BEING.PDF](#)

5. Any Other Business As Authorized By Law
6. Adjournment

Kenosha County DCFS Child Protective Services



SAFETY, PERMANENCE AND WELL-BEING

Initial Assessment – Safety Primary Assessment Standard


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The Primary Assessment is required when the alleged maltreatment or threats to child safety are by or contributed to by a parent, stepparent, the child's guardian or legal custodian, an Indian custodian, a kinship care provider, foster parent, or any individual who resides regularly or intermittently in the same dwelling as the child.

Initial Assessment - Safety

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CPS Report

- DCFS receives a CPS Report that a child/children are being abused/neglected.
- The CPS Report is read by a Social Work Supervisor.
- The Supervisor determines that the CPS Report meets State Standards to be screened-in.
- The Supervisor determines if Present Danger Threats or Impending Danger Threats are in the CPS Report. 
- The CPS Report is screened-in, and a response time is set.
- The case is assigned to an Initial Assessment worker.
- Law Enforcement is contacted when severe maltreatment is alleged and in all allegations of sexual abuse.

Initial Assessment - Interview Contacts

- All household members must be interviewed.
- If a child is too young to be interviewed, the child must, at a minimum, be observed.
- A visit to the home where alleged maltreatment occurred is required.
- The order of interviews must take into consideration preserving information and minimizing the anxiety felt by the child(ren).
- Face-to-Face contact is required with the following individuals:
 - Identified Child(ren).
 - Siblings and other children in the home.
 - Non-maltreating adults (if any).
 - Alleged Maltreater.
- When known, relevant collateral sources of information are contacted.
- **Child safety is assessed at EVERY contact.**

Initial Assessment - Safety

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Information that must be gathered and analyzed.

- **Maltreatment**, includes alleged maltreatment, and any other type of maltreatment occurring within the family, including domestic violence.
- **Surrounding Circumstances**, included circumstances leading up to maltreatment and the parent's/caregiver's response.
- **Child Functioning**, including general functioning, disabilities, or special needs of all children in the household, effects of any maltreatment, and child vulnerabilities.
- **Adult Functioning**, including general functioning, mental, emotional and physical health, disabilities, and enhanced and diminished Parent/Caregiver Protective Capacities.
- **Parenting Practices**, including general parenting practices, discipline practices, and enhanced and diminished parent/caregiver protective capacities.
- **Family Functioning**, including strengths and current stresses.
- Documentation of the **child's Indian status**.
- The **Children's Wisconsin Kenosha County Child Advocacy Center (CAC)** may be used to conduct a child abuse assessment (medical exam and interview). This work is documented on DVD, for judicial purposes.

Initial Assessment - Safety

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Present Danger Threats

Present Danger refers to an immediate, significant and clearly observable family condition that is occurring or “in process” of occurring at the point of contact and will likely result in severe harm to a child.

1. The child is currently being maltreated at the time of the report or contact.
2. Severe to extreme maltreatment of the child is suspected, observed, or confirmed.
3. The child has multiple or different kinds of injuries.
4. The child has injuries to the face or head.
5. The child has unexplained injuries.
6. The maltreatment demonstrates extreme cruelty.
7. The maltreatment of several victims is suspected, observed, or confirmed.
8. The maltreatment appears premeditated.

Initial Assessment - Safety

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Present Danger Threats Cont.

9. Dangerous (life threatening) living arrangements are present.
10. Parent's/caregiver's viewpoint of child is extreme and is dangerous for the child.
11. Child is unsupervised and unable to care for self.
12. Child needs medical attention.
13. The child is profoundly fearful of the home situation or people within the home.
14. Parent/caregiver is intoxicated (alcohol or other drugs) now or is consistently under the influence.
15. Parent/caregiver is out of control.
16. Parent/caregiver is demonstrating extremely unusual or unexpected behaviors.

Initial Assessment - Safety

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Present Danger Threats Cont.

17. Parent/caregiver is unable or unwilling to perform basic care.
18. Parent/caregiver is acting dangerous now or is described as dangerous.
19. Parent's/caregiver's whereabouts are unknown.
20. One or both parents/caregivers overtly reject intervention.
21. The family may flee.
22. The family hides the child.
23. Child is subject to present/active domestic violence.

Initial Assessment - Safety

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Impending Danger Threats

Impending Danger refers to a foreseeable state of danger in which family behaviors, values, motives, emotions and/or situations pose a threat that may not be currently active but can be anticipated to have severe effects on a child at any time in the near future and requires safety intervention.

1. No adult in the home will perform parental duties and responsibilities.
2. One or both parents/caregivers are violent.
3. One or both parents'/caregivers' behavior is dangerously impulsive, or they will not/cannot control their behavior.
4. One or both parents/caregivers have extremely negative perceptions of the child.
5. Family does not have or use resources necessary to assure the child's basic needs.

Initial Assessment - Safety

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Impending Danger Threats Cont.

6. One or both parents/caregivers fear they will maltreat the child and/or request placement.
7. One or both parents/caregivers intend(ed) to seriously hurt the child.
8. One or both parents/caregivers lack parenting knowledge, skills, or motivation necessary to assure the child's basic needs are met.
9. The child has exceptional needs which the parents/caregivers cannot or will not meet.
10. Living arrangements seriously endanger the child's physical health.
11. The child is profoundly fearful of the home situation or people within the home.

Initial Assessment - Safety

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Danger Threats

- Initial Assessment worker identifies Present Danger Threats.
- A Protective Plan must be created and implemented the same day; Present Danger is identified.
- Initial Assessment worker identifies Impending Danger Threats.
- A Safety Plan must be implemented the same day Impending Danger is identified.



Protective Plan,

In-Home Safety Plan

- Initial Assessment worker develops the plan with the parents/family.
- Parents and adult relatives must agree to the plan.
- In-Home Safety Services and other services are used to control safety threats.
- CPS Unit Social Work Supervisor must approve the Protective Plan/In-Home Safety Plan.

Initial Assessment - Safety

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Protective Plan, In-Home Safety Plan

- Protective Plan, In-Home Safety Plan is in place.
- Children are observed daily.
- Initial Assessment worker is monitoring the Plan.
- Plan is working.

OR

- Initial Assessment worker and Supervisor determine that parents are not following Protective Plan/Safety Plan.
- Initial Assessment worker and Supervisor determine that Safety Threats cannot be controlled in the home.

Juvenile Court Intake

- Initial Assessment Worker and Supervisor determine children should be placed out of the home to control for safety.
- Initial Assessment worker contacts Juvenile Court Intake (JCI).
- Initial Assessment worker presents Present Danger Threats and any Impending Danger Threats to JCI and requests Temporary Physical Custody of children.
- JCI authorizes Temporary Physical Custody.
- Initial Assessment worker/Resource Development finds placement for children.
- Parents receive legal documents and are notified of a court date.

Initial Assessment - Safety

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Intake Court, Next Business Day

- Court reviews the facts surrounding the Request for Temporary Physical Custody.
- Court Commissioner issues a Temporary Physical Custody Order, under Chapter 48.13.
- Court makes finding that continuation of the child in the home is contrary to the child's welfare.
- Court makes finding that reasonable efforts to prevent removal of the child from the home were made by DCFS.
- The Court orders child held in custody out-of-home and specifies where.
- The Court sets next court date.



Initial Assessment Work Continues

- Initial Assessment (IA) worker verifies safety of foster parent/relative caregiver home and answers questions they have.
- IA worker continues to gather information for the Initial Assessment.
- IA worker prepares Petition Request Information for District Attorney's office. DCFS is requesting that the Court find that the Child(ren) are in Need of Protection or Services (CHIPS).
- IA worker responds to any issues/crises.
- Caregiver schedules and completes 2-day Care 4 Kids Health Screen at the **Kenosha County CAC**.
- Complete Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) tool.

Initial Assessment – Safety and Well-Being

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Intake Court

- Public Defenders and Guardian Ad Litem are assigned to their clients.
- District Attorney filed Petition that Child is in Need of Protection or Services (CHIPS).
- Intake Court accepts Petition, schedules future court dates.
- Court continues Temporary Physical Custody Order for child(ren).
- Rules surrounding visitation are set by the Court. Visits are scheduled.
- Child's placement may be changed.



Initial Assessment Work

- Initial Assessment worker continues to gather and document all information for Initial Assessment.
- Parents have first visit with children within one week of placement. Visits are supervised.
- Some referrals for services for the children are made (ex. Birth to 3).
- Parents are offered some services.
- Initial Assessment worker searches for other appropriate relatives to care for children.

Initial Assessment – Safety and Well-Being

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Conclusion of the Initial Assessment

- The Initial Assessment contains the following information and conclusions:
 - Child(ren) Maltreatment and surrounding circumstances.
 - Child Functioning for each child and effects of maltreatment.
 - Adult Functioning for each adult.
 - Parenting Practices and Family Functioning.
 - How identified Safety Threats are related to parent's ability to provide protection.
 - Maltreatment determination and Maltreater determination.
 - Documentation of the child(ren) Indian status.
 - **Safety Assessment, Analysis and Plan.**

Initial Assessment, Ongoing Services Safety and Well-Being

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Case Transition Staffing

The staffing must include the IA worker, Ongoing worker and the Ongoing Unit Supervisor. The following must be discussed, (abridged examples):

- All information in the Initial Assessment (IA) and it's conclusions.
- Case documentation, gaps in information, and decisions made.
- Child needs, including a summary of medical, mental health, and school information.
- Efforts to confirm whether the child is a member of a tribe.
- Identify impending danger and how Safety Analysis resulted in Foster Care/Relative Care.
- Any existing court orders, upcoming court obligations, and timeframes.
- Status of involvement of any non-custodial or absent parent.
- Information about the safety of placement setting.
- Recent face-to-face contacts with child, parent(s), and child caregiver.
- Efforts to locate and place the child with other relatives/adults.
- Status of the placement and licensing process for any relative caregivers.
- Status of the Birth-to-Three referral or services.

Ongoing Services - Safety and Well-Being

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The Family Interaction Plan

DCFS is responsible for ensuring initial face-to-face family interaction occurs within five working days of the child(ren)'s placement in out-of-home care.

The agency shall, within 60 calendar days after placement, establish a family interaction plan. Parent and child family interaction must occur weekly.

When siblings are not placed together, sibling face-to-face interaction must occur monthly, at a minimum. Additionally, children shall have other family interaction (e.g., telephone calls, letters, etc.) with their parents weekly.

Additional Requirements:

- Family interaction can only be prohibited by the agency if a court finds continued contact is not in the child's best interests.
- Family interaction can be decreased or suspended if there is evidence that the contact is contrary to the safety of the child(ren) and this information is documented in the case record.
- Family interaction cannot be used as a punishment, reward, or threat for a child.
- The agency cannot restrict or suspend family interaction as a means to control or punish a parent for failure to work with agency or community providers or to comply with conditions of the case or Permanency Plan.
- The out-of-home care provider cannot prohibit family interaction.

Ongoing Services - Safety and Well-Being

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Assessment and Case Work

- The Ongoing worker interviews both parents, individually, to gather social history, discuss results of Initial Assessment and assess adult functioning, parenting practices and family functioning.
- The Ongoing worker determines if any professional evaluations of parent are needed.
- The Ongoing worker discusses impending danger with parent and its impact on child safety.
- The Ongoing worker meets each child and child's caregiver, in their home, to support them and assess children's strengths and needs. Safety of foster home/relative home is assessed.
- The Ongoing worker and child's caregiver determine if children need services. Ongoing worker facilitates referral for services as needed.
- Ongoing worker responds to any caregiver's placement concerns.
- Ongoing worker makes initial referrals for services for parents. Parent(s) may or may not participate.
- **Ongoing worker, Parents, Public Defenders, Guardian Ad Litem, Asst. District Attorney attend multiple court hearings.**

Ongoing Services

Safety, Permanence and Well-Being

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Dispositional Report to the Court

Wisconsin Statute, Chapter 48, requires DCFS to submit a written report to the Court, prior to the Court determining the Child is in Need of Protection or Services. The Disposition Report contains:

- Precipitating situation.
- Social history of the parents and child(ren).
- Worker analysis.
- Placement history.
- Objectives of the Treatment Plan.
- Services recommended.
- Disposition and recommendations.
- Permanency Plan and Permanence Goal.
- Conditions of Return that parents must complete to achieve reunification.

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Dispositional Court Hearing

- The following attend: Parents, Parent's Public Defender, DCFS Ongoing Worker, Assistant District Attorney, Child's Guardian Ad Litem, Foster Parents may attend.
- Ongoing worker has submitted Disposition Court Report.

The Court Finds:

- Child is in Need of Protection or Services (CHIPS).
- The child is placed out-of-home.
 - A. Placement in the home at this time is **contrary to the child's welfare**.
 - B. Reasonable efforts to prevent removal** were made by the Department.

The Court Orders:

- The child is placed under court jurisdiction.
- Placement out-of-home (at specific home or a level of out-of-home care).
- Expiration of order on child's 18th or 19th birthday.
- Department will conduct a diligent search to locate and provide notice to all adult relatives.

Ongoing Services

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Dispositional Court Hearing Cont.

The Court Orders:

- Conditions of Return (examples).
 - Maintain a suitable residence.
 - Cooperate with DCFS and Service Providers.
 - Regular contact with child.
 - Actively participate in services.
 - Actively participate in all educational and medical planning for child.
 - Submit to random urine analysis.
 - Complete an Alcohol and other Drug Abuse Assessment and follow any recommendations.
 - Complete a psychological evaluation and follow any treatment recommendations.
- Specific Services to be provided to child and family as follows (examples).
 - Case Management, Random Urine Analysis, Psychological Assessment and follow recommendations for treatment, Anger Management Education, Parenting Education, individual therapy for the parent and visitation with child.
- Legal Custody transferred to DCFS.
- Notice concerning grounds to Terminate Parental Rights.

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Permanency Planning

The Permanency Plan is the case plan and permanence goal for each child in out-of-home care. It is required by Wisconsin Statute and must be approved by the Court. The original Permanency Plan is due 60 days from the day of the child's removal from their home. The Plan is updated at 6-month intervals.

- In Kenosha County, Permanency Plan Hearings in court are held every 6 months, all parties attend. The Judge reviews case progress with the parents and all parties and sets the Permanence Goal(s) for each child.
- Permanence Goals include: Reunification, Adoption, Transfer of Guardianship, Placement with a fit and willing relative, Other Permanent Living Arrangements.
- The Permanency Plan documents the safety and well-being of the child and the services the child is receiving. The plan documents the services the parents are receiving and the progress, or lack of progress, the parents are achieving on their Conditions of Return.
- **Concurrent Permanency Planning** involves setting two (2) Permanence Goals and working on both goals at the same time, to move a child more quickly to permanence.

Ongoing Services

Safety, Permanence and Well-Being

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Ongoing Services Case Work

- Parents and children are referred to services ordered by the Court.
- Ongoing worker manages and checks in on progress with all service providers.
- Ongoing worker sees each child face-to-face in foster care/relative care each month assessing the safety and well-being of each child.
- Ongoing worker provides support, guidance to foster parent/relative and additional services as needed.
- Ongoing worker has, at a minimum, monthly contact with parent to support, guide and encourage participation in services.



Client Progress

- Parents have regular supervised contact with children and behave appropriately during visits.
- Parents actively participate in services.
- Service Providers document progress with parent.
- Parent submits to weekly, random urine analysis and does not test positive for drugs and alcohol.
- Children have settled in at foster home/relative home.
- Child's well-being improves: including health, mental health and school behavior.

Ongoing Services

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Permanency Plan Hearing

- The Permanency Plan for each child is updated by Ongoing worker every 6 months documenting progress of the child and parents. Ongoing worker recommends the Permanency Goal. Plan is submitted to Court.
- Permanency Plan Hearing is held. All parties attend and are given opportunity to present information.
- Judge reviews Permanency Plan in court with parents and all parties.
- Court accepts Permanency Plan and orders Permanency Goal for next 6 months. The Court may order additional services.



Ongoing Service Case Worker

- Ongoing worker case manages the case, adjusts services as needed.
- Ongoing worker responds to case crises as needed.
- Ongoing worker continues monthly contact with child and foster parent (assessing safety/well-being), parents and service providers.
- Ongoing worker addresses any problems, lack of progress with parent(s).
- If parent is making progress, case worker increases supervised visitation or moves to monitored visitation in the client's home.

Ongoing Services

Safety, Permanence and Well-Being

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Social Worker Supervision and Case Consultation

- All DCFS Social Workers (Initial Assessment, Ongoing and Youth Justice) receive weekly individual supervision with their Supervisor.
- Each Unit conducts a weekly Unit meeting led by Supervisors.
- All significant case work requires a supervisor's approval.
- All members of DCFS Management have an open-door policy and are available to support staff during a case crisis.
- Formal case consultation meetings are held every month to problem solve with social workers and provide additional guidance.
 - **Case Planning and Review** (available to all cases).
 - **Transition Team** (cases making progress toward reunification and open with the Intensive Aftercare – Reunification Program).
 - **District Attorney Staffings** (cases that may be headed toward adoption or guardianship).

Ongoing Services

Safety, Permanence and Well-Being

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Child Welfare Services

Mental Health

- Psychological Assessment.
- Psychiatric Assessment and Medication Management.
- In-Home Therapy: adult, child, family.
- In-Home Alcohol and other Drug Abuse (AODA) counseling.
- Outpatient Therapy: adult, child, family.
- AODA Assessment.
- Medically assisted AODA treatment (Vivitrol).
- Outpatient and AODA therapy/counseling.
- Other therapeutic interventions.
- Urine Analysis.

Parenting

- Parenting classes.
- In-Home Parent Mentor.
- In-Home Family Support Program.
- Parent Support Group.

Medical

- Care 4 Kids –comprehensive coordinated medical, dental care for children in foster care/relative care.

Ongoing Services

Safety, Permanence and Well-Being

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Child Welfare Services Cont.

Safety Services

- In-Home Safety Services
- Intensive Aftercare Reunification Program
- Family Preservation – Safety Program
- Supervised Visitation.
- Child Protective Services (CPS) Support Program.

Others

- Permanence Plan Program – Project Home.
- Families First* (Comprehensive Community Services for child).
- Children’s Long-Term Support Waiver*.
- Birth to 3 Program.
- School Liaison Programs.

*Voluntary, Medicaid Funded Programs.

Ongoing Services

Safety, Permanence and Well-Being

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Client Progress

- Parent is actively engaged in all services.
- Service Providers report regular contact and progress with client on their goals.
- Parents are observed safely interacting with children.
- Clients are referred to Intensive Aftercare Reunification Program (IAP).
- Visits now occur in parent's home, monitored by IAP.
- Visits progress over months and include more time at home with overnight visits.



Ongoing Services Case Work

- Parent and child(ren) continue services.
- Ongoing worker closely monitors parents work with all providers and IAP.
- Case is routinely staffed at the Transition Team for consultation.
- IAP continues monitoring client progress, children/parents in the home.
- Ongoing worker discusses dates for Reunification or Trial Reunification with Supervisor. Supervisor approves date.
- Ongoing worker requests a Trial Reunification or schedules court hearing for Reunification.

Ongoing Services

Safety, Permanence and Well-Being

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Court and Reunification

- Court issues order for Trial Reunification for 90 days.
- Children are in home. IAP is monitoring daily.
- Trial Reunification is successful, Ongoing worker requests a Change of Placement home.
- A court hearing is held. Judge reviews progress.
- The Judge orders Placement in-home with parent(s) with Conditions of Supervision and Continued Placement to expire in 1 year.



Case Work-Children in home

- Child is living in the home with parent(s).
- Court has jurisdiction and case remains open with Ongoing worker.
- Services continue; some services decrease over time.
- Intensive Aftercare Reunification Program (IAP) continues random monitoring of safety in the home.
- Ongoing worker continues case management of all services.
- Ongoing worker makes a minimum of two face-to-face contacts in the family home, monthly, always assessing safety.
- Case successfully closes.

Ongoing Services

Safety, Permanence and Well-Being

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Case Work – Termination of Parental Rights

- Ongoing Worker has provided numerous services to parent(s).
- Each Parent is making little or no progress with services.
- Each Parent is still at supervised visitation.
- Child has 2 Permanency Goals: Reunification and Adoption.
- Ongoing worker had full disclosure meeting with parent(s).
- Ongoing worker has staffed case with District Attorney's office.
- Concurrent planning is occurring, child lives in pre-adoptive home.
- Ongoing worker submits referral to District Attorney's office to Terminate Parental Rights.
- Assistant District Attorney prepares Petition to Terminate Parental Rights.
- Assistant District Attorney files Petition, receives initial court date.
- Ongoing worker prepares case file for Discovery and to testify.

Ongoing Services

Safety, Permanence and Well-Being

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Court Hearings

- Multiple court hearings are held.
- Each parent is appointed an attorney.
- **All services continue for parents during this process.**
- **Visitation continues.**
- Court determines that:
 - Grounds exist to Terminate Parental Rights.
 - It is in the best interest of the child to Terminate Parental Rights.
 - Court orders that parental rights are terminated for both parents.
- Guardianship, placement and care responsibility and custody are transferred to the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families.

State Adoption Work and Court

- State Adoption worker takes over all case management responsibility.
- State Adoption worker prepares all home studies and court documentation to finalize adoption.
- An adoptive court hearing is scheduled.
- The child is legally adopted.

Child Protective Services

Safety, Permanence and Well-Being

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The Division of Children and Family Services follows the following Statutes and State Standards to achieve Safety, Permanency and improve Well-Being for each child in out-of-home care.

- Wisconsin Statute Chapter 48: “The Children’s Code”.
- Wisconsin Department of Children and Families – Child Protective Services Safety Intervention Standards.
- Wisconsin Department of Children and Families – Child Protective Services Access and Initial Assessment Standards.
- Wisconsin Department of Children and Families – Wisconsin’s Ongoing Service Standards.

**Kenosha County DCFS
Child Protective Services
Safety, Permanence and Well-Being**

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THANK YOU.