

Community Partners for Child Safety Q & A

- 1. If a family is referred from another organization for one child and we find out that one of their other children is on probation can we still service the child?**

If a juvenile probation case is open on any of the children in the family, services should not be provided through Community Partners. Exception: Families can be served if the open probation case is on a child placed in a residential setting and the family is not receiving any home based services through the probation case. If that family has another child in the home and needs services to prevention abuse or neglect of that child, the family can be served.

- 2. If we are in the middle of servicing a family where one child is a referral from truancy (not on probation) court and then the child gets put on probation should we close the case?**

Yes, if a juvenile probation case is open, services should not be provided through CPCS.

- 3. What if probation refers a family with a child on probation only to get basic necessities? Can we provide ONLY basic needs without case management services?**

CPCS should not be serving families where one or more of the children have open probation cases, except as outlined in #1 above.

- 4. If a family is referred where the parents are divorced and have joint custody can we service a family (client) who only has the kids every other week?**

Yes. That parent should be allowed services, due to the fact that abuse or neglect could occur while the children are in his/her custody.

- 5. If a client wants CPCS services and the children are staying with a family member while the parent is getting the house cleaned, utilities back on, etc. can we work with that family since the kids are not technically living in the home?**

Yes, CPCS can work with this family.

- 6. Is it ok to ask DCS to let us know when they've closed an investigation? Do we wait to work with a family until the case is closed**

or are we to work with them based on the FCM's word that it will be "unsubbed?" Do we need a release for the FCM to tell us about the report that was unsubbed?

If DCS indicates that there is no open case on the family, it is okay to serve the family. NOTE: DCS should not substantiate an assessment and then refer the family to CPCS for services. If child abuse or neglect has occurred and services are needed, DCS should provide services through an open case.

- 7. Do we need a release of information to have client's name cross matched with ICWIS to get the outcome piece even if we only get back %'s of aggregate data and not family name or information?**

No

- 8. If grandparents are going to get custody of kids and the case is still open on the parents do we have to wait until the case on the parents is closed before helping the grandparents?**

The DCS case would need to be closed before serving the grandparents.

- 9. Does the state have an idea of how much (dollar amount) they feel is the ceiling to provide material relief?**

That was left up to the RSC, see flex funding guidelines.

Flex Fund Process

- **Regional Service Council/Governance Council RSC/GC) will establish the flex fund guidance process for the region.**
 - **These flex funds will be approved and administered according to the procedures determined by the Regional Service Council/Governance Council.**
 - **Flex funds shall not exceed a percentage of the CPCS contracts determined by RSC/CG and must be included in of the families goals/service plan.**
 - **Percentage guidance will be determined by the Regional Service Council/Governance Council.**
- 10. Is there a list of things we can and can't buy as part of the family's plan? Can we buy a car?**

These funds should not be used to purchase vehicles. Flex funds are for the purpose of meeting the unique individual needs to prevent abuse/neglect and promote safety. Flex funds should never be used for items listed on the federal disallowable cost sheet:

http://in.gov/dcs/files/Attachment_09021109.pdf

11. Where do we draw the line in the sand about how many times we can service some of the chronic families? Central Office decision? RSC decision?

Regional Service Councils may set guidelines if they would like to restrict the number of times a family can receive services.

12. One of our DCS departments has asked us to work with a family for a year where there was a near fatality. Can we do that?

CPCS can work with a family where there was a near fatality as long as child/neglect was unsubstantiated.

13. Can CPCS serve non-citizens?

Yes

14. Should CPCS be used as follow along after a DCS case is closed?

No, if the FCM feels the family is still at risk of abuse or neglect, s/he should advocate for the case to stay open.

15. Should CPCS serve families where one or more youths are on “informal probation”?

No, these services should be provided through the probation budget.

16. How long after a substantiated case of abuse/neglect before the family is eligible for CPCS services?

Once a DCS case is closed, the family can be served by CPCS. However, DCS should never use CPCS as a follow along service. If the FCM believes the child is still at risk of abuse or neglect, the FCM should advocate keeping the case open.