



Behind the Scenes of DCF

Sonia Solas

Warm up

<https://youtu.be/IOeQUwdAjE0>



What is DCF?



State ran child protection agency that is created by federal and state guidelines. Dcf is incharge of the safety and well being of the children. Their core values are children driven, family centered, strength based and community focused. They are also culturally safe and a commitment to continuing education.

The DCF case practice are a combination of federal and state guidelines with evolving court law (as court cases change determinability of cases and laws change). For example, in the past courts would call to get a verbal report and now more recently the court will need a disclosure before a dcf social worker can present in court.

Another example is that drug screenings would be done by DCF; now DCF has to rely on medical professionals or a substance use treatment program to complete it. Another one is closed adoptions. Back in the day there was more and more closed adoptions than there are currently, this is do to the changes in law.

Filing a 51a report/ 51b report?

- ❖ How do you file?
- ❖ Who can file?
- ❖ When to file?
- ❖ What is a 51b report?
- ❖ How does culture come in to play with DCF?



Report Suspected Abuse
(24 Hour Hotline):
1-800-792-5200



What is considered abuse?

- ❖ The non-accidental commission of any act by a caregiver which causes or creates a substantial risk of physical, emotional injury or sexual abuse to a child
- ❖ The victimization of a child through sexual exploitation or human trafficking, whether or not the person responsible for the act is a caregiver.
- ❖ The definition is not dependent upon location. Abuse can occur while the child is in an out-of-home or in-home setting.

ONLY
1 IN 10
CHILDREN
WHO HAVE BEEN
ABUSED
DISCLOSE
THEIR ABUSE

What is physical Injury?

- ❖ Death.
- ❖ Bone Fracture, subdural hematoma, burns, impairment of any organ, and any other such non-trivial injury.
- ❖ Soft tissue swelling or skin bruising depending upon such factors as the child's age, circumstances under which the injury occurred, as well as the number and location of bruises.
- ❖ Addiction to a drug at birth (SEN)
- ❖ Failure to thrive.



What is emotional Injury?

An impairment or disorder of the intellectual or psychological capacity of a child with evidence by observable and substantial reduction in the child's ability to function within a normal range of performance and behavior.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- ❖ Severe anxiety.
- ❖ Depression or withdrawal.
- ❖ Unmanageable behavior or hostility toward others.
- ❖ Self-abusive behavior.



Substantial Risk for Harm

An action taken or a situation (either purposely or through lack of action) which is left unchanged, might lead to physical or emotional injury to the child. Examples include but are not limited to

- ❖ Choking or smothering without a detectable injury.
- ❖ Pulling out a child's hair.
- ❖ Shoving or throwing a child onto the floor, against a wall or other fixed object.
- ❖ Threatening to use, or actual use of, a deadly weapon such as a knife or gun.
- ❖ Forcefully shaking a child;
- ❖ A chronic pattern of striking a child;
- ❖ Locking a child in an enclosed space such as an attic, cellar or closet;
- ❖ Repeated verbal assault or other acts resulting in reasonable fear by the child that her/his life or safety is threatened;
- ❖ Domestic violence situations in which a child is threatened with harm during an incident of violence against a parent/caretaker and/or in which dangerousness of the abuse places child at risk;
- ❖ Non-accidental death or death from lack of supervision of one child provides reason to believe another child is at risk;
- ❖ Past sexual abuse of a child provides reason to believe that another child is at risk;
- ❖ Child is left in a hazardous situation capable of causing physical harm, given the child's age and capabilities.





What is neglect?

Failure by a caregiver, either deliberately or through negligence or inability, to take those actions necessary to provide a child with minimally adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care, supervision, emotional stability and growth, or other essential care: malnutrition: or failure to thrive. Neglect cannot result solely from inadequate economic resources or be due solely to the existence of a handicapping condition.

What is the process?

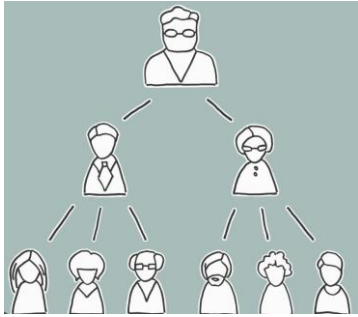
DCF has up to 3 days to screen a 51A, but it does not have to take that long. In the case of an emergency, the 51A screening can be expedited.

The DCF Response Worker has 15 business days to complete a response.

If a case remains open, the next social worker assigned has up to 45 business days to complete the assessment

Types of Custody

- ❖ Voluntary Placement Agreement
- ❖ Child Requiring Assistance (CRA) (When parents, guardians, or school officials ask the court to help supervise a child)
 - CRA (Truancy)
 - CRA (Stubborn)
- ❖ Care and Protection Petition
- ❖ Custody from Probate Court
- ❖ Guardianship of an Incapacitated Adult.



Chain of command in DCF

Each Social Worker has a Supervisor, who oversees up to 5 workers. Each Supervisor has an Area Program Manager that will typically have up to 4 Supervisors under them. The Area Program Managers report directly to the Area Director. There is also an Area Clinical Manager, who reports to the Area Director and provides oversight for case practices in the office. While the Area Clinical Manager doesn't directly supervise the Area Program Managers, they do function very much like the second in command after the Area Director.

Collaboration with DCF

- ❖ Should ask clients for a copy of action plan.
- ❖ Open an avenue of communication between DCF, Therapist and client'
- ❖ PCP's care ("be the eye")of collaboration



Questions?

