

Student Name:

Date Completed:

Child Protective Services Case Assessment and Subsequent Procedures

As a IV-E stipend field placement student and future DHR employee, it is important for you to understand the entire life of a case, from the point of entrance to when the case is terminated. When a call comes in to Intake, it is determined if the report is accepted for an assessment or non-accepted. If the report is accepted, it is assigned to a CAN worker who is in charge of assessing the report of abuse and/or neglect. The CAN worker and supervisor then decides the validity of the case.

Part A.

If, while investigating the report, the CAN worker determines that the child is at an immediate risk of harm they will take the child into immediate care by calling the judge and getting a verbal order to remove the child, or by petitioning the court in writing. Once the child is in custody, the CAN worker has 24 hours to compose and present a petition to the judge, and then the worker and supervisor have 6 weeks to staff the case and determine the validity of the case.

1. Ask your supervisor to assign a CAN worker, who has taken a child into immediate care sometime in the last two days, for you to shadow.
2. Meet the CAN worker you will be shadowing and ask him/her if you may look at a copy of the petition that was prepared for the case.
3. Find out when and where the 72-hour hearing is set so that you can attend and observe.
4. Answer the following questions:
 - a. If it is not obvious to you, ask the CAN worker what evidence did he/she find that suggested that the child was at immediate risk of harm and needed to be removed from the home?
 - b. What similarities did you notice between the affidavit you read and the information the CPS worker presented to the judge?

Part B.

If, while investigating the report, the CAN worker does not observe anything that suggests that the child is at an immediate risk of harm, the worker wraps up the assessment for the day. The worker and supervisor then have 60 days to staff the case and determine if the case is indicated (has evidence of abuse and/or neglect) or not indicated (does not have evidence of abuse and/or neglect).

Some cases are determined to be not indicated and are then closed. Some cases can be indicated and still be closed, with some services being provided by the CAN worker, or with the case being referred to Family Services. Finally, sometimes when reviewing the evidence it becomes apparent that the case is, in fact, high risk, and the worker requests the removal of the children from the home (via verbal or written order).

1. Ask your supervisor to assign a CAN worker, who has an upcoming case staffing for you to shadow.
2. Meet the CAN worker and ask him/her if you can look at the notes and evidence collected during the assessment.
3. Find out when the case staffing is going to take place so that you can attend and observe.
4. Answer the following questions:
 - a. Describe the procedures you witnessed at the case staffing:

 - b. How did the worker and supervisor decide whether the case was indicated or not indicated? Did you agree with their decision? Why or why not?

I discussed the following with my supervisor regarding the CPS Case Assessment and Subsequent Procedures: