

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES IN MARIN COUNTY

Emergency Response (ER)

Initial intake of all cases goes through this team. To report any suspicion of abuse, call the Duty Worker at 499-7153. This is a 24-hour number. Duty Workers are also available for consultation.

If cases are accepted into the social services' system, an ER Social Worker is assigned to do a risk assessment of the situation. This Worker has 30 days from the date child is first seen to see all the parties involved and to make a decision as to whether the child is safe, needs protection and Court intervention, or can be protected with a voluntary contract with the parents. Some families only need to be seen once or twice and then the case is closed. At the end of 30 days, the case is closed if the child can be protected by the family without child protective services, or the family is transferred to Family Maintenance, Family Reunification or Permanency Planning.

Family Maintenance (FM)

FM Social Workers have cases of families with children in their own home. The Case Plan can be a voluntary contract or a Court ordered plan for the family and Child Protective Services to do certain things to protect the child. These in-home service child protective plans can remain open for up to one year.

Family Reunification (FR)

FR Social Workers have cases of families with children placed out of their own home with relatives, in foster homes, group homes, or residential treatment programs. Most of these children are Dependents of the Court, with Reunification Plans ordered by the Court which state specifically in plain language what the parents need to do to be reunified with their children. Some children may also be placed under a voluntary contract for up to six months.

Permanency Planning (PP)

PP Social Workers have cases of children who, for various reasons, cannot return to their own homes and need plans made which will protect them and allow them to grow up in a safe place. All of these children are Dependents of the Court, with a plan called a Permanent Plan. Depending on their situation, some of these children are freed for adoption, some have legal guardians and some remain in long term foster care.

Goals of Child Protective Services

ER - Keep the Child Safe

FM - Keep the Families Together

FR - Put Families Back Together

PP - Give the Child a Permanent Home

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