



RESOURCE FAMILY LUNCH AND LEARN SERIES

Essentials for New and Experienced Resource Families

Welcome to the Resource Family Lunch and Learn Series, a collection of short, practical videos designed to support both new and experienced resource families. Each video provides essential education and tools to help you navigate the unique challenges and rewards of fostering and caregiving.

Videos are no more than one hour in length and can be viewed in any order, allowing you to

- (1) choose topics that meet your current needs or
- (2) follow the series sequentially for a comprehensive learning experience.

Our goal is to equip you with the knowledge, strategies, and confidence to provide a nurturing, trauma-informed environment for the children in your care.



Understanding the Juvenile Dependency Court Process with Maria Sullivan, Deputy County Counsel Video 1 of 1 | Workbook



Tuolumne County Child Welfare Online Training Library
Course: Resource Family Lunch and Learn Series
Video 1 of 1 Featuring Maria Sullivan



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Sensitive Content

This course contains educational material of a highly sensitive nature, including material that may be triggering for some individuals. Content includes topics on child abuse and neglect, the impact of trauma, sexual abuse, trauma responses, and Dependency Court. This content may be triggering or emotionally challenging. Be aware of your personal responses, take breaks as needed, and consult with your supervisor (if you are a professional) or other qualified professional as needed.



Key Takeaways

Events Prior to Removal

- ☒ Report of suspected child abuse or neglect
- ☒ Investigation
- ☒ Safety and risk assessment

If a child is removed from their home, placement is identified and Dependency Court Hearings are initiated.

Detention Hearing

Juvenile Dependency Court

Focus: Ensure safety and well-being of children who are alleged to have been abused, neglected, or abandoned.

Confidential: Unlike many court proceedings which are public, these hearings restrict attendance to the parties involved, their legal representatives, and sometimes specific authorized persons.

A DETENTION HEARING

is an initial court proceeding that occurs shortly after a child has been removed from their home.

Jurisdiction Hearing

A JURISDICTION HEARING

occurs following the Detention hearing. The hearing is to determine whether the allegation(s) of abuse or neglect are true and if the court should take jurisdiction over the child.



A Contested Hearing is a court proceeding where the facts of the case are disputed, and both parties present evidence and arguments to support their positions.

Disposition Hearing

A DISPOSITION HEARING

If the Court finds the allegation(s) to be true at the Jurisdiction hearing and sustains the petition, a Disposition hearing is scheduled to determine what course of action the court will take.

- ☐ Family Reunification: Child remains in out-of-home care
- ☐ Family Maintenance: Child returned home
- ☐ No Services: Court will set a hearing to determine a permanent plan



When a child is in out-of-home care with a goal to return home through family reunification services, a **concurrent plan** for permanency is to be identified and included in the case plan.

Concurrent Planning



Types of Concurrent Planning: Adoption

Key Takeaways

Key Takeaways

Types of Concurrent Planning: Legal Guardianship

What you can Expect

Continuances: This is when a hearing or trial is postponed to a later date



Contested Hearings: This is a court proceeding where the facts of the case are disputed, and both parties present evidence and arguments to support their positions.

Questions: Expect to have questions. Communicate with your social worker.



Visitation

- Parents have a right to visitation
- Visitation maintains family connection
- Visits with extended family members

The agency will keep you informed of the current visitation and any changes in visitation.





Key Takeaways

Placement of a Child

Family Finding is a dedicated effort by the agency to locate and engage relatives or other significant connections for children placed in out-of-home care.

The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) is a federal law that requires a child to be placed according to the preference of the Tribe. ICWA applies when the child is a member of, or eligible for membership in, a federally recognized tribe.

Juvenile Dependency Cases are
CONFIDENTIAL

Status Review Hearings

**After the Disposition ,
Status Review Hearings
are set every 6 months.**

6 Month Status Review



12 Month Status Review



18 Month Status Review

If family reunification services are terminated, the Court will set a hearing to determine a Permanent Plan.





Child Family Team (CFT) Meeting



The purpose of a CFT meeting is to gather the people involved in the child's life to determine how best to meet the child's needs and achieve positive outcomes of safety, permanency, and well-being.

Key Takeaways

Other Hearings

Travel

Non-routine or specialized medical and dental care

Psychotropic medication

If you have any questions
contact your social worker

