

Safety Organized Practice

Safety Organized Practice for Court Partners

The collaborative practice approach of Safety Organized Practice (SOP) can be utilized by all individuals working with families and DCFS including: Judges, County attorneys, Guardian Ad litem, Youth and Parent attorneys, Court Appointed Special Advocates, etc. Below are examples of how you as a Court Partner may see or utilize Safety Organized Practice when working with families.



<p>GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIPS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look for ways in which DCFS was able to gather the voice of the child (Three Houses, Safety House). If child voice it is not clear or present ask about it. • Ensure the child is present at the family team meetings and court hearings. If child is not able to be present ensure that their voice is shared. • Utilize Solution Focused questions to obtain information about the family. (Exception, Scaling, Position, Coping, Preferred Future).
<p>CRITICAL THINKING</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be knowledgeable about Structured Decision Making Tools utilized by DCFS to help inform their decision making. (SDM Benchcard). • Help the family process what is going well, what we are worried about and what needs to happen next by participating in a Case Mapping at a Family Team Meeting.
<p>ENHANCING SAFETY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look for Harm and Danger Statements in court reports. Clear statements of why DCFS is involved with the family. • Look for safety goals that are behaviorally specific to include objectives which define observable acts of protection. Acts of protection are behaviors taken by a parent that builds safety for their child. • Look for safety plans/case plans that involve network members to ensure there are people wrapped around the child to create safety.

