

Safety Planning Guide for Natural Supports

Background

Natural supports are integral to keeping children in their homes and in their communities. Children and families can be supported by many different people, regardless of biological connection. Including and supporting a family's natural supports as part of local Child Protective Services (CPS) agency's intervention is an essential component of our state's vision of [Putting Families First](#). One way to assist natural supports is to offer targeted training regarding their role in the CPS helping process and how they assist in keeping children safely with their families. This resource helps to accomplish that by providing comprehensive information that is easily accessible.

This resource was informed with input from various stakeholders, including those with lived experience. Using that feedback allowed this resource to specifically target the most important questions natural supports may have. This resource is available to view online (link) via a QR code and is organized by subject into 4 separate chapters. It was created with the intention that natural supports could view the content efficiently on any device and skip around to whichever subjects they want to learn more about at their convenience. The content in this resource is also available to view and print if needed.

Benefits of Supporting Natural Supports and Talking Points for CPS professionals

- Reduce unnecessary and traumatic out-of-home care placements
- Provides natural supports with information and support at any time
- Helps support CPS professionals in explaining the CPS process and aspects of safety planning with families
- Highlights the need to identify and practice self-care
- Provides information on possible child behaviors and reactions
- Gives natural supports tips and tricks on how and when to communicate with the assigned CPS professional

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Content

Chapter 1: Understanding the CPS Process

This chapter grounds the learner in the goals and purposes of CPS and the general CPS case process (Access, Initial Assessment & Ongoing) as well as terms used by CPS professionals.

Chapter 2 – Planning with the Family

The focus of this chapter is to provide the natural support with helpful information pertaining to protective planning or safety planning with the family and CPS professional. Highlights include involvement with the tribe(s) when applicable, similarities/differences between protective plans and safety plans, and the importance of parenting input while developing plans.

Chapter 3 – Understanding Your Role

This chapter expands on assisting the natural support person in understanding what their role and responsibilities are within the context of the plan while maintaining cultural and community connections for the child and family.

Chapter 4 – Understanding Children's Reactions and Self-Care

The last chapter highlights the importance of self-care and provides information pertaining to possible child reactions to trauma or major life changes in general.