



Child Support



Basic information about advocating for domestic violence victims within the child support system

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How to use this presentation

- Read and study all the slides
- Follow the links if you want to learn more
- Once you have completed reading the entire presentation, take a quiz to test your knowledge and complete Lesson 1 of this course
- Away you go!



Contents



This presentation covers three broad concepts related to the child support system

1. As domestic violence victim advocates, we'll look at why we should even be concerning ourselves at all with the child support system.
2. What advocates need to know about how the child support systems work in our state
3. What specific safeguards exist in the system to promote victim safety

We also provide a list of great resources at the end!



Part 1

We're victim advocates – so why are we talking about child support?

In a nutshell

Because

- All children cost heaps of money to support, and
- Many survivors have children, and
- Economic factors are a huge concern to women trying to cope with or escape DV, and
- Child support payments can make up a significant portion of a woman's overall income, but
- Receiving child support can be problematic for survivors

That's why



● ● ● | Now for the details...
How *much* money?



- Here's one estimate of the cost to raise one child in the U.S., birth to 18
 - Low income families spend \$182,920
 - Middle income families \$250,530
 - High income families \$366,020



Why money matters

- Having money and resources gives people more options.
- For the middle and upper class women who experience domestic violence, having money enables them to more freely respond to perpetrators.
- Survivors who have resources have a wider range of options when the batterer attempts to maintain or regain control. For example, they can hire their own attorney, or move to another home.



Money, in and of itself, does not buy safety

For example, a woman working a well-paid, living wage job (one that pays for housing, food, childcare, medical care, transportation, etc.) is free from the immediate risks of homelessness and hunger. But if a violent abuser is threatening to kidnap her kids from childcare while she works, she is not safe from the risks associated with the domestic violence.



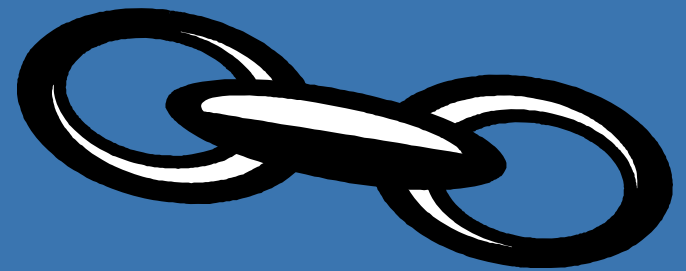
But lack of money creates even more problems

- Multiple reviews by the Washington Fatality Review Project indicated that economic instability is a significant barrier to victim autonomy and self-determination.
See www.wscadv.org for more information
- Many research studies show that economic factors are among the top reasons survivors stay with or return to violent perpetrators.



Hard truths

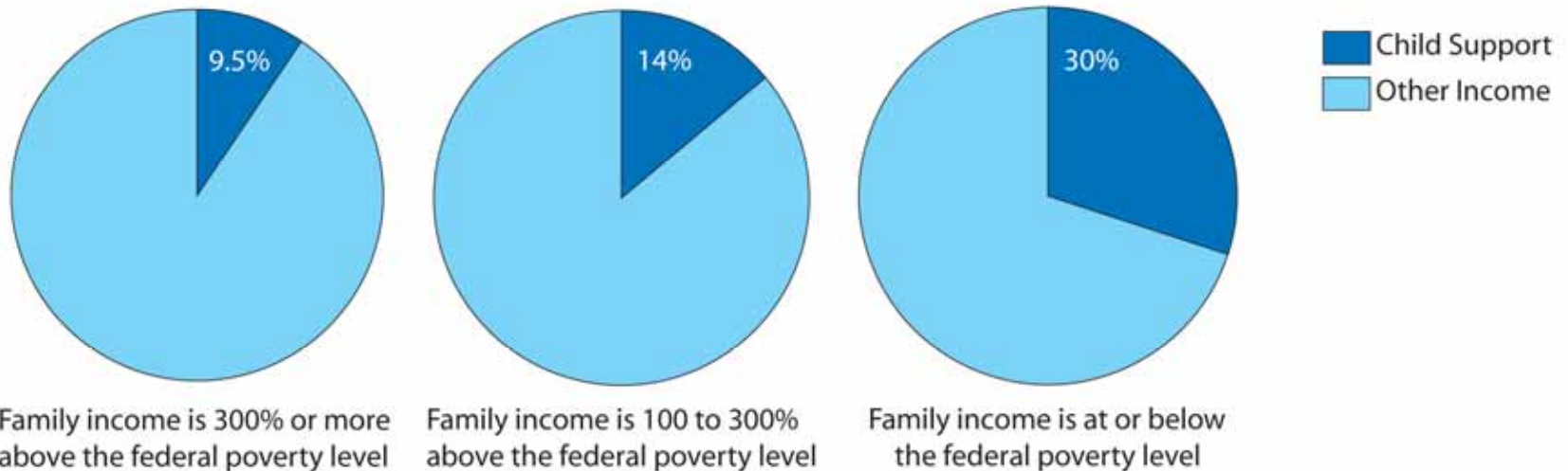
The reality of survivors who have children in common with a batterer is that she is linked to him via their children, and he is linked to his children (if for no other reason) via his obligation to pay for them.



For women who receive child support, the payments are a large part of their overall income

The less income a woman has, the more significant the percentage from child support payments

Families that are receiving Child Support



From the National Survey of America's Families, by the Urban Institute:
<http://www.urban.org/center/anf/nsaf.cfm>



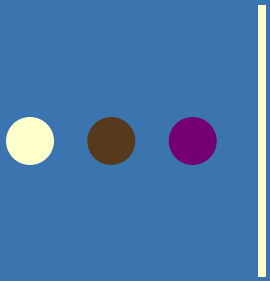
Catch 22

- While receiving child support payments may provide a measure of financial stability and increase a survivors' options ...
- Pursuing and/or receiving child support payments may also trigger a batterer to increase violence, threats and/or harassment.



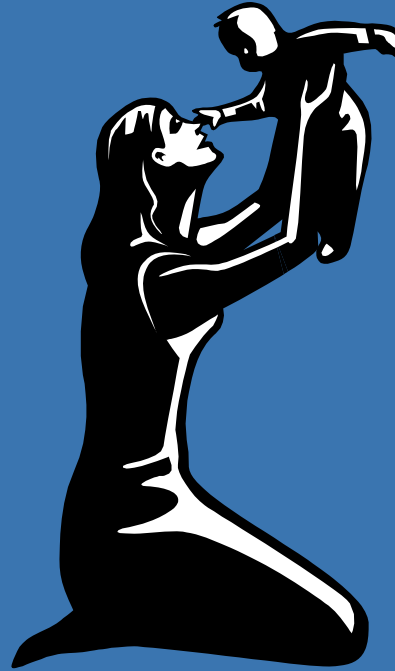
Resources and Safety

- When you listen carefully to any battered woman's story, you'll hear her weighing her options and making personal and financial decisions in order to survive and keep her kids safe.
- As an advocate, you can be a big help to survivors by knowing about a wide range of resources.



Part 2

How the Child Support Systems Work





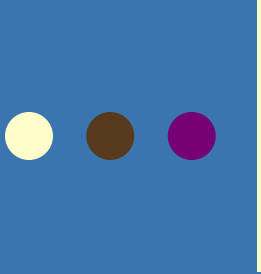
The importance of knowing the facts

- o survivors make reasonable decisions based on the factors swirling in their lives and the information they have at hand.
- o Complete and accurate information is not always readily available to survivors so they can make well-informed decisions.



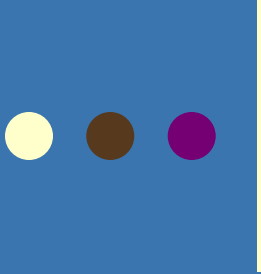
The advocate's job

- Advocates can be a vital source of information
- Advocates can help survivors through the complex personal and financial factors impacting the well-being of herself and her children.



The advocate's job related to child support

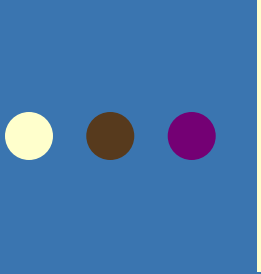
- The most important things an advocate can do to help a survivor navigate through the child support system are:
 1. know the basic rules about how the child support system works so you can explain it to any survivor
 2. inform survivors specifically about the most critical safety considerations
 3. have “friends” (allies) on the inside of the system who you can count on to assist a survivor in a helpful way
 4. facilitate a strong connection between the survivor and your allies so that as circumstances evolve, the survivor can continue to get accurate and useful information to make fully informed decisions



There are two systems that work on child support

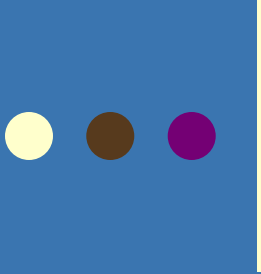
1. The civil legal system – the courts
2. The Division of Child Support – a state agency

They *can* work independently, but they often work together to establish paternity, set support orders, and enforce them.



The civil legal system – the courts

- At times, people settle their child support issues in the civil legal system during divorce or parenting plan negotiations. All arrangements are negotiated with both parties – ideally each with an attorney – and the court makes the final decision and creates legal orders.
- If a court-ordered child support payment plan is in place, and the non-custodial parent is not paying, the court can intervene, or the custodial parent can contact the state division of child support for (free!) help.

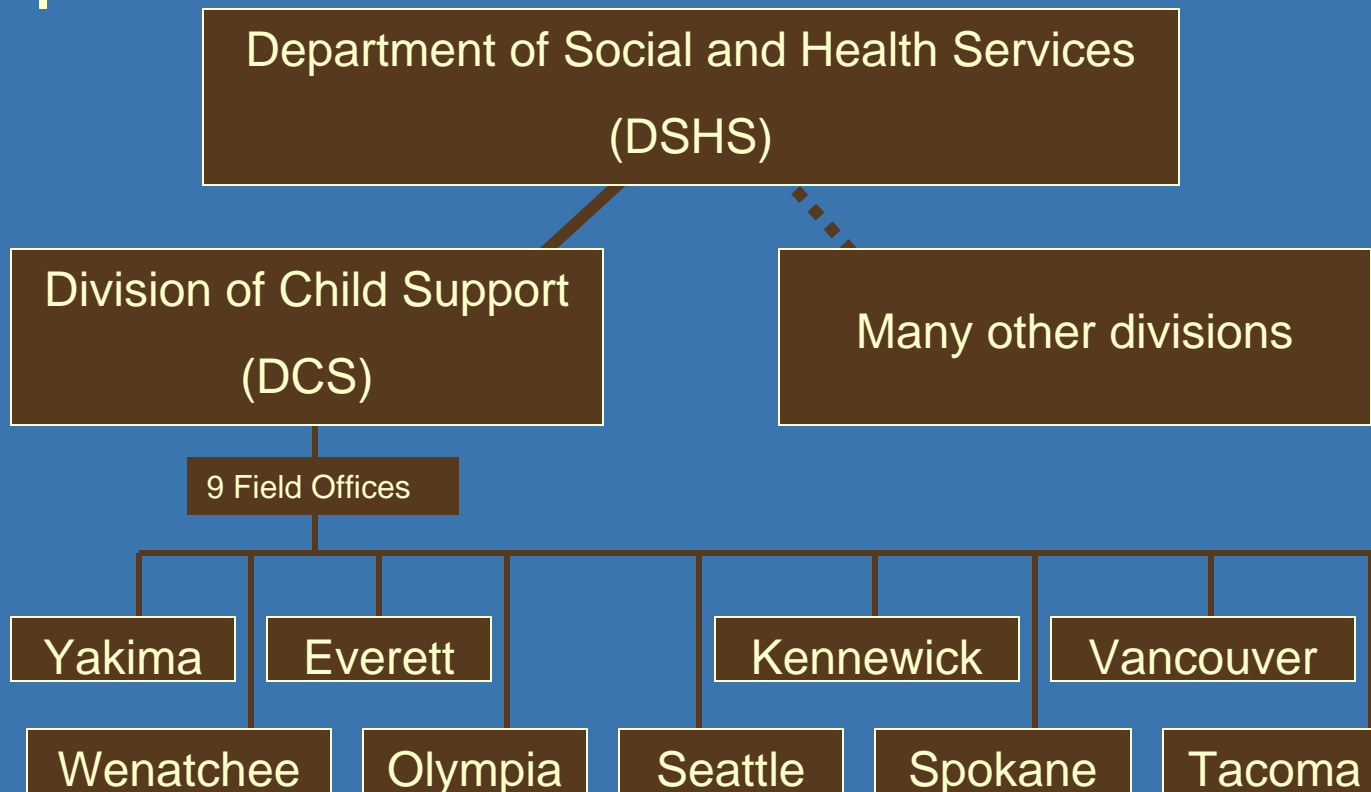


The civil legal system – the courts

Definitions

- Non-custodial parent (NCP) – the parent who is not the primary custodian of the children, the person who is required to make payments under an order for child support
- Custodial parent (CP) – the parent with whom the children primarily reside, the person to whom payments are to be made under an order for child support

The Division of Child Support a state agency



To read details about how Child Support works, visit their excellent web-site

<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/dcs/>

to find the field office that can help you, go to

<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/dcs/contact.asp>



What does DCS do?

The Division of Child Support (DCS) is funded in large part by the federal government to do 5 specific things.

1. Establish paternity
2. Establish support orders
3. Collect the current support that is owed
4. Collect support owed from the past
5. Do all these things in a cost-effective manner



How do they do these things?

- DCS does much of their work through a combination of court orders and DCS contracts with administrative orders
 - county prosecutors to work in the court system to establish paternity and court orders
 - DCS also follows a detailed array of state laws and regulations to establish what are called administrative orders.
 - Administrative orders have the same force and effect as court orders – they are just as powerful. The beauty of them is that you don't have to go to court.



Division of Child Support (DCS)

DCS serves a lot of people

- Statewide, DCS serves about 1 out of every 10 residents
- DCS serves an average of 336,580 children per month
- The vast majority (85.4%) of non-custodial parents are male, while most (88.6%) custodial parents are female.

DSHS ESA Briefing Book - 2010 - Child Support. The DSHS ESA Briefing Book is a great source for facts and statistics about the activities of the Economic Services Administration (ESA) and can be found on the internet at <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/esa/esbriefingbook.shtml>



DCS is really good at what they do

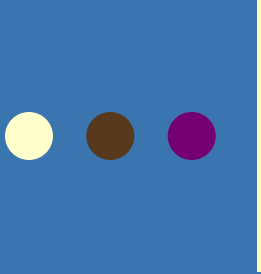
- DCS enforces support orders by taking money from wages, and bank accounts, intercepting tax returns and even lotto winnings. They have even seized cars and airplanes.
- DCS employs technology to search constantly for the assets of non-custodial parents.
- If the custodial parent seeks medical assistance for her child, DCS will look to see if the non-custodial parent has health insurance that covers his family, and if so, DCS will make sure the children get enrolled on that health plan.



Other things in the DCS repertoire

- If a non-custodial parent doesn't pay the child support he owes, DCS can contact other state and federal government agencies to apply pressure

For example, DCS can contact the Department of Licensing and have them not renew or issue hunting and fishing licenses until the NCP comes into compliance. Or DCS can work with the federal agency that issues passports so they will not be issued or renewed until the NCP catches up on the child support debt.



DCS is really good at finding people

- When anyone, anywhere, fills out new employee paperwork, they are entered into the Federal Parent Locator Service (FPLS) (you are in it too)
- The FPLS is a nationwide computer database specifically set up to track down non-custodial parents who owe child support.
- DCS employees find a lot of people by using this service, but they also track people down in all kinds of other ways.

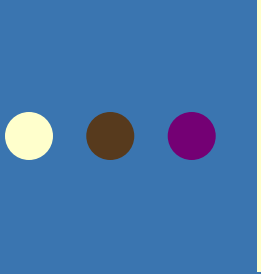


Who can use DCS services?

- DCS services are available to almost all parents in Washington State – regardless of income level and marital status.
- Currently, DCS services are provided free of charge if you are currently receiving or have ever received TANF.
- There is a \$25 annual fee for those never on assistance.

To read all the details about who is eligible, go to

<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/dcs/Services/#s2>



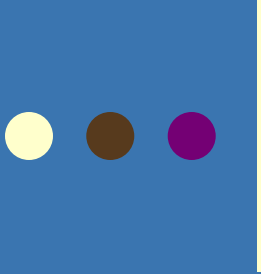
Who must use DCS services?

- Everyone who applies to get TANF cash assistance or Medicaid (medical coupons) is *required* to “enroll” with DCS.
- Federal law calls this “cooperating” with child support.
- Cooperating means that applicants give DCS information so DCS can track down and bill the non-custodial parent who owes child support and/or health insurance coverage to his/her children.



Three different populations

- The DCS caseload is made up of three populations that DCS serves in different ways
 1. People who have never been on public assistance can start using DCS services anytime they want and can stop using the services anytime they want.



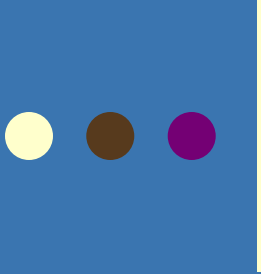
Three different populations

2. People who are currently on TANF or who currently receive medical assistance (Medicaid) are required to help DCS establish paternity, collect child support, and/or put children on the non-custodial parent's health insurance, ***unless they are excused by DSHS from this requirement.***
- Once off TANF, the custodial parent will receive the entire child support payment.



More on Child Support Pass Through

- For a survivor who receives TANF and has an open child support case, she will receive up to \$100 per month if she has one child or up to \$200 per month if she has two or more children.
- **However**, if the Division of Child Support is unable to collect as much as \$100 or \$200 (depending on family size) in a month, a survivor will only receive as much as they are able to collect.
- This pass-through benefit will end on May, 1 2011. Those on TANF will not receive any child support money until they go off of TANF.
- For more information about child support pass through payments, go to <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/dcs/PassThruQA.asp>

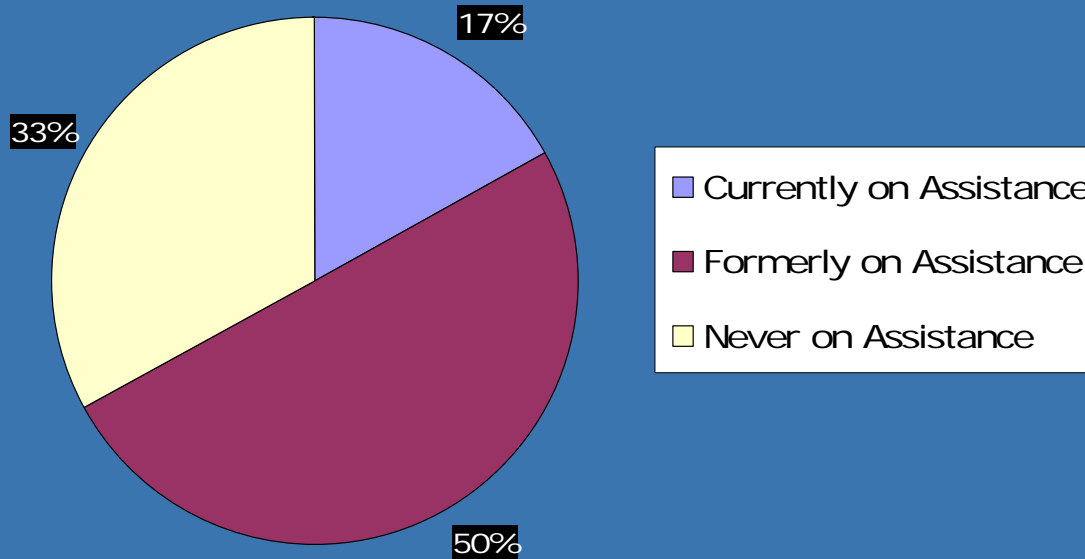


Three different populations

3. People who were on TANF/medical assistance but aren't any longer will continue to receive DCS services. Once off TANF, all the money DCS collects for current support will go directly to the parent. Custodial parents are not required to use DCS services once they are off TANF, but few leave once support payments start flowing.

Current DCS Caseload

Current DCS Caseload--356,436



from the ESA Program Briefing Book 2010

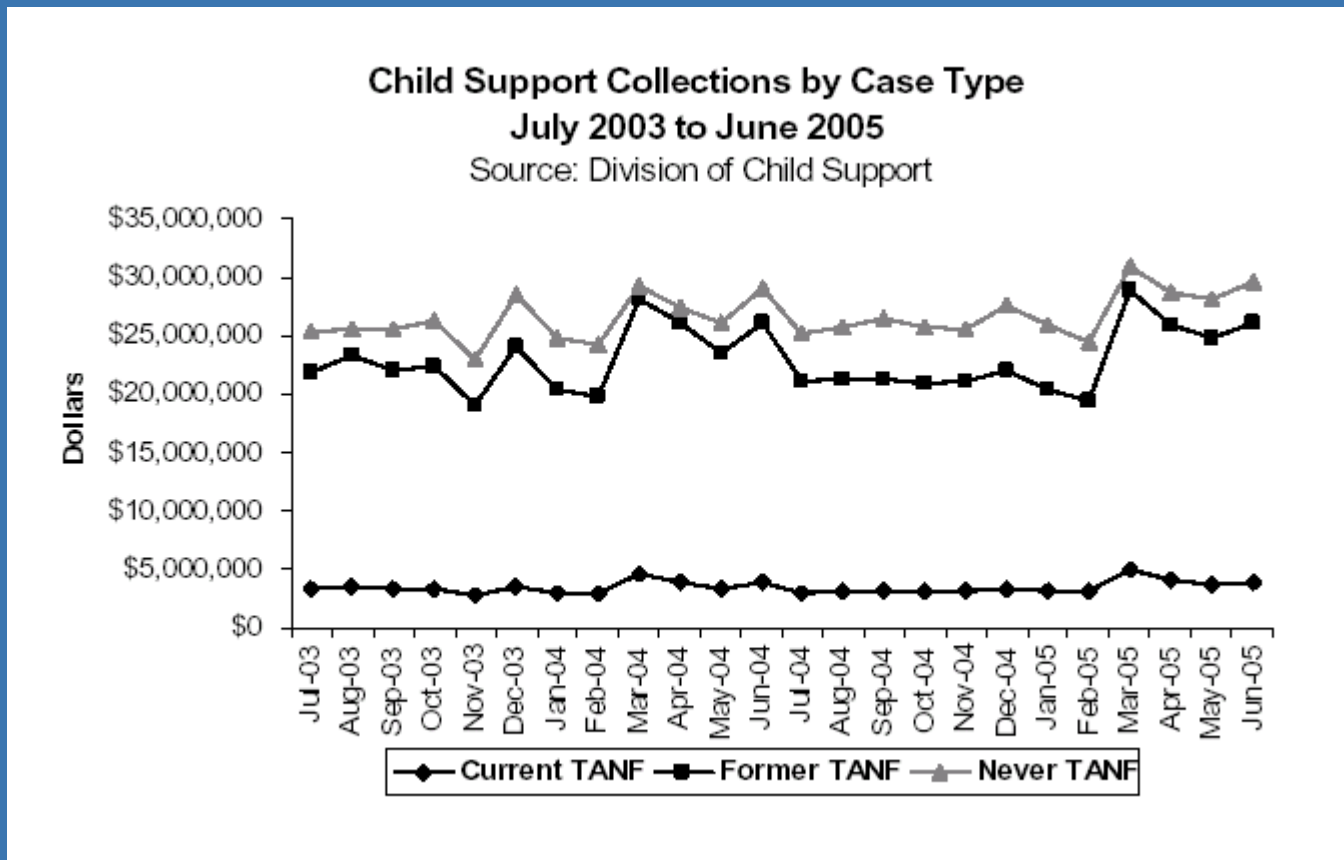


The Benefit

- o A benefit to women who are required to sign up for child support while on TANF or Medical Assistance is that the support and health insurance coverage for kids can continue after they get off TANF – free of charge.

\$\$\$ Collected

DCS collects a lot of money. Many women are enrolled while on TANF, and continue to reap benefits long after they are off assistance.

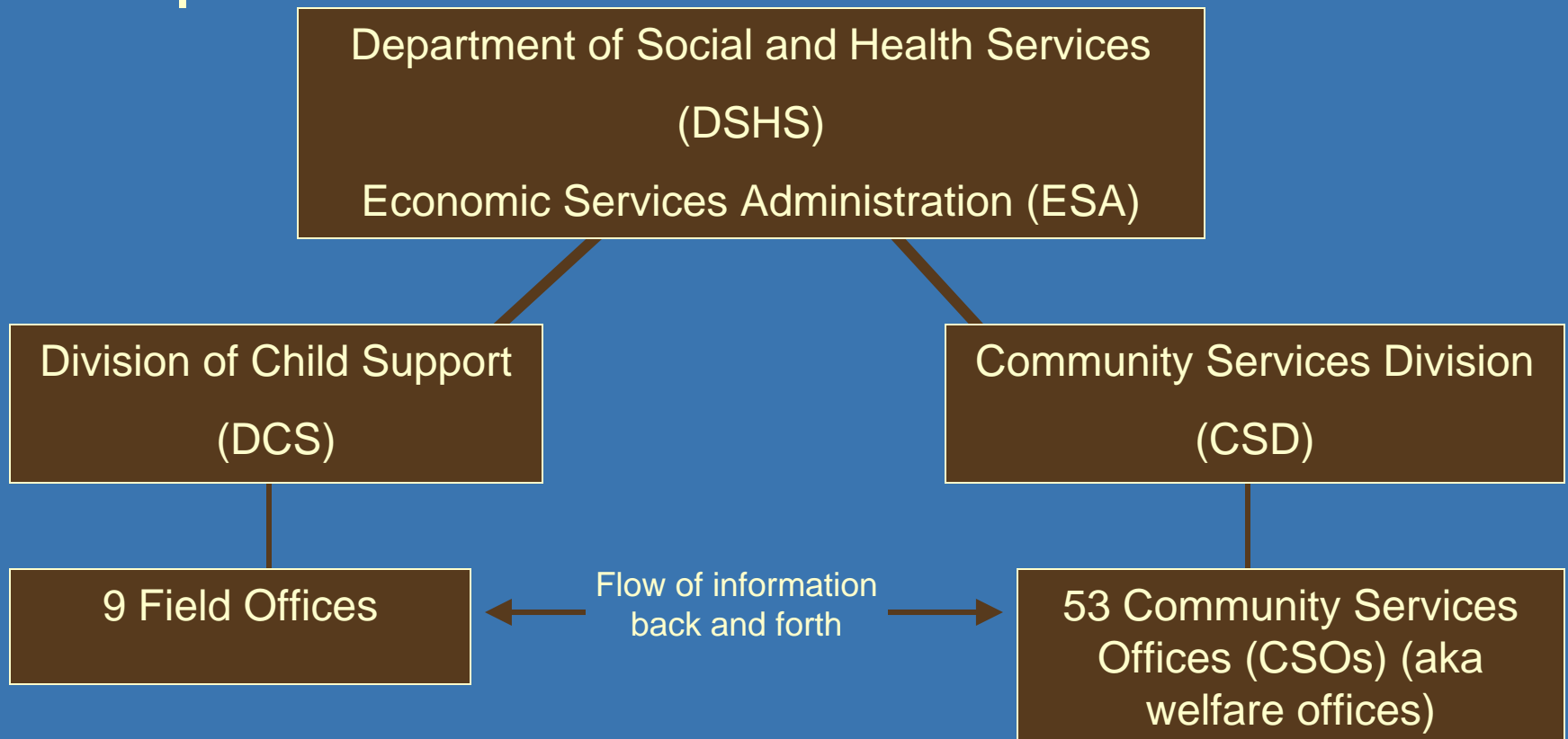




Personal Information

- When people go to Community Services Offices (CSOs) to sign up for TANF or get help with the medical needs of their kids, CSO workers collect lots of information – including information for the Division of Child Support.
- DCS uses the information the CSO personnel gather to track down the non-custodial parent to collect child support or enroll the children in health insurance.

How do the two divisions within DSHS interconnect?



People who go to CSOs to apply for TANF and medical assistance are required to 'enroll' with DCS



Wow, they ask a lot of questions...

The next six slides are a complete list of all the questions CSO personnel ask on behalf of DCS to anyone enrolling in TANF or seeking medical assistance

NOTE: We include the complete list here not so you will study or memorize it, but rather so you will be impressed by the amount of detail required of applicants.



STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH
SERVICES
DIVISION OF CHILD SUPPORT (DCS)

CHILD SUPPORT REFERRAL - The Division of Child Support will use your personal information and Social Security Number for child support enforcement purposes as defined in Title IV-D of the Social Security Act.

o **A. INFORMATION ABOUT THE CHILDREN'S PARENTS**

MOTHER OF CHILDREN

- o Name (First/Middle/Last):
- o Other Names Used:
- o P.O. Box or Street Address: City: State: ZIP Code:
- o Home Telephone Number: Message Telephone Number: E-mail Address:
- o Social Security Number:
- o Date of Birth (Month/Day/Year):
- o Place of Birth (City/County/State/Country):
- o Race: Height: Weight: Hair Color: Eye Color:
- o Native Language (If correspondence needed in other than English):
- o If enrolled in an Indian Tribe, name of the Tribe:
- o Lives on an Indian Reservation? No Yes
- o Last-Known Employer's Name:
- o Employer's P.O. Box or Street Address:
- o Employer's City: State: ZIP Code:
- o Employer's Telephone Number:()
- o Mother's Father's Name:
- o Mother's Mother's Maiden Name:



CHILD SUPPORT REFERRAL - continued

FATHER OF CHILDREN

- Name (First/Middle/Last):
- Other Names Used:
- P.O. Box or Street Address: City: State: ZIP Code:
- Home Telephone Number:() Message Telephone Number:() E-mail Address:
- Social Security Number:
- Date of Birth (Month/Day/Year):
- Place of Birth (City/County/State/Country):
- Race: Height: Weight: Hair Color: Eye Color:
- Native Language (If correspondence needed in other than English):
- If enrolled in an Indian Tribe, name of the Tribe:
- Lives on an Indian Reservation? No Yes
- Last-Known Employer's Name:
- Employer's P.O. Box or Street Address:
- Employer's City: State: ZIP Code:
- Employer's Telephone Number:()
- Father's Father's Name:
- Father's Mother's Maiden Name



CHILD SUPPORT REFERRAL - continued

B. THE CHILDREN'S RESIDENCE

- The children listed on page 2 live with:
- Mother Father Other (specify): _____
- Did the non-custodial parent ever live with or provide support for the children in Washington State? No Yes
- If yes, when?

C. IF THE CHILDREN DO NOT LIVE WITH THE MOTHER OR FATHER, COMPLETE THIS SECTION

- Your Name:
- Your P.O. Box or Street Address:
- Your Social Security Number:
- Your City: Your State: Your ZIP Code:
- Your Telephone Number:()
- Your Relationship to the Children:



CHILD SUPPORT REFERRAL - continued

D. INFORMATION ABOUT THE CHILDREN FOR WHOM YOU WANT CHILD SUPPORT

- **List only the children of the parents listed on page 1 that live in your home. Use a continuation sheet if needed.**
- Child's Name (First/Middle/Last):
- Sex:
- Social Security Number
- Did the father sign a paternity affidavit? No Yes
- Date of Birth (Month/Day/Year):
- Place of Birth (City/County/State/Country):
- Did the mother become pregnant with this child in Washington State? No Yes
- If no, then where (County/State):
- Is there a support order for this child? No Yes
- If yes, date of order (Month/Day/Year):
- If yes, place order entered (County/State/Tribe):



CHILD SUPPORT REFERRAL - continued

E. MARRIAGE INFORMATION FOR THE PARENTS OF THE CHILDREN LISTED ABOVE

- o Date Married (Month/Day/Year): Place Married (County/State):
- o Date Divorced (Month/Day/Year): Place Divorced (County/State):
- o Date Separated (Month/Day/Year): Place Separated (County/State)

F. PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENT INFORMATION

- o Have you or the children listed above ever received public assistance from a state or Indian Tribe?
- o If yes, where (Counties/States/Tribes): If yes, when
- o If there is a child support order(s) for the children listed above, how much **total** support did the non-custodial parent pay to you for the children (**do not include support owed to a state or Indian Tribe**)?
\$ _____.
- o Dates received support: (start) _____ (end) _____.
- o **Attach copies of all support orders.**



CHILD SUPPORT REFERRAL - continued

G. DECLARATION

- o I agree to tell the Division of Child Support immediately, in writing, of any new or changed information that relates to collecting child support from the parent responsible for paying support. I certify or declare under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the state of Washington, that the forgoing is true and correct.

Signed at _____, Washington.

Signature:

Date:

No person because of race, color, national origin, creed, religion, sex, age, or disability, shall be discriminated against in employment, services, or any aspect of the program's activities. This form is available in alternative formats upon request



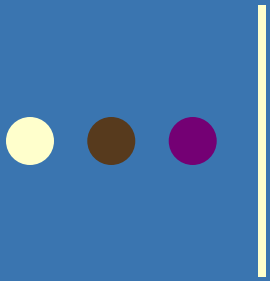
Yikes! – That's a lot of information!

- The good news - if the custodial parent has even a little bit of information about the father, DCS is really good at finding non-custodial parents.
- If the non-custodial parent has any money, DCS is good at collecting.
- This can be a very beneficial thing financially



But...

- o The bad news - for some survivors, contacting the batterer or forcing him to pay child support will trigger him to retaliate. Women are often fearful about contact with a batterer because of the threats he has made. Victims have a sense, based on past behavior, of what he is capable of doing.



Part 3

Safeguards for Survivors



Good Cause

- Even though people who receive a TANF cash grant or medical assistance are required to provide all the information they know about the father or fathers of their children, ***they don't have to do so if they have a good reason not to provide it.***
- But, they can't just ignore the requirement. There is a process people go through to be excused from the requirement to give information and otherwise “cooperate” with DCS.
- This process is called seeking “good cause.”



Good Cause

- In the child support arena, you can claim “good cause” if you explain that you fear for you or your children’s safety if you give information about the father – why you don’t want DCS to pursue child support or medical insurance for your kids.
- You can only be excused from the requirement to cooperate (granted good cause) if you **outline your fears and concerns in a signed statement.**



Good Cause

- If you are granted good cause, you can't get sanctioned – meaning you cannot get in trouble – for not cooperating with DCS efforts to identify, find, and bill the non-custodial parent.



CSO staff are required to tell all applicants about Good Cause

- CSOs have a form that they give to everyone who is applying for TANF that offers the applicant an opportunity to apply for good cause.
- However, some CSOs do everything online and no longer use this form, but they can still apply for good cause.



Good Cause

- The 18-334 is a critically important form for all victim advocates to know about.
- This is the form that people must use to claim good cause. As of June 1, 2010 the revised version will be available. It was changed to be more informative and to make the process easier.
- Open this link now to read the form.
http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/pdf/ms/forms/18_334.pdf



“I have a good reason not to help”

Survivors must fill in the box at the bottom of form 18-334 and sign and date it. If you are working with a survivor who is fearful about collecting child support, you can help her think about her fears so she can write the required summary on the form.



What happens if someone claims good cause?

- If a survivor fills out the form and indicates she is afraid (“claims good cause”), CSOs are to put collection efforts “on hold” while they evaluate the claim.
- CSOs have a protocol for making a determination about the claim.
- CSO Social Workers are the workers most commonly tasked with this job, but in practice, the worker who actually does this job varies from office to office. You have to find out specifically who fulfills this function in your local CSO.



What do the official rules say?

- A worker in the CSO decides to grant or reject good cause, hopefully adhering to agency protocol.
- The protocol is contained in the Social Services Online Manual at:

<http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/manuals/socialservices/sections/GoodCause.shtml>



What happens during the determination of good cause?

- If a survivor has things like protection orders, police reports, and medical records, these are all usually accepted as “proof” by CSO personnel.
- But there are lots of reasons victims will not have any type of “evidence.” In the absence of any official documents, the regulations allow workers to approve a good cause claim based solely on a signed statement from the victim.



The Social Service Manual

- The complete text of the official state rule on verification is quoted on the next slide. It can be found in the Good Cause chapter of the Social Services Manual under #4.
- <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/manuals/socialservices/sections/GoodCause.shtml>



Verification

4. **Ask the parent/caretaker for verification. Discuss with the parent/caretaker the verification that can be provided to substantiate the Good Cause claim. Verification may include one the following:**
 - Completed 18-334(X) or other signed statement from the victim herself or himself, outlining his/her fears and concerns, or
 - Civil or criminal court orders (domestic violence protection orders, restraining orders, no-contact orders), or
 - Medical, police, or court reports, or
 - Written statement from clergy, friends, relatives, neighbors or co-workers.

NOTE: DSHS cannot require a parent to provide court orders or police records in order to support a claim of Good Cause. There are many reasons why a victim of family violence would not be in possession of these. For example, if s/he has fled and left these papers behind, or if seeking copies of these documents would alert a perpetrator to her/his whereabouts. In addition, many victims, for a variety of good reasons, have never sought help from systems like the police, courts or medical facilities.



Level A and Level B Good Cause

- When good cause is granted, it used to be assigned to one of two categories:
 - Level A or Level B
- Effective June 1, 2010, new policy outlines that the choice of Level A or Level B will now be up to the survivor.
 - This is good news!



Advocacy Tip

- This also means that workers at the CSO will need to clearly explain the difference between the choices, so survivors can make an educated decision.
- CSO workers will be receiving training sometime soon, but you can help survivors understand the choices too.
 - And help workers at the CSO understand that it's the survivor's choice.



Level A

Do Not Pursue Child Support

- DCS does not pursue paternity, collection of child support or medical insurance from the NCP **because any contact poses a risk of serious harm** to the child or caretaker.
- DCS stops working on the child support case, takes no actions and the parent will not receive child support.
- Even though DCS stops working on the case, any child support debt continues to accumulate.
- In the future, if good cause is not an issue, DCS will collect both current and past due child support.



Level B

Pursue Child Support with Caution

- DCS will go ahead and work on the case without requiring that the custodial parent give them information about the NCP, if going forward would not result in risk of serious harm to the child or custodial parent.
- DCS establishes the account for child support collection in the field office nearest the non-custodial parent, therefore there is no reason to reveal even the county of residence of the custodial parent.
- This could be a good option for those survivors who feel that as long as they can assure the abuser that they are not helping DCS, the abuser would not escalate violence.



Level B *continued*

- Generally, DCS does not pursue establishing paternity because these proceedings usually take place in the county of residence of the child and require the cooperation and involvement of the child and custodial parent.
- The parent will not be required to cooperate, but she/he may elect to do so as long as there is no risk of harm. For example, if the custodial parent's (CP) county of residence is already known to the non-custodial parent and the CP wishes to establish paternity, DCS will provide this service. The CP can stop this process at any time. **Cooperation is voluntary in Level B cases.**



Level A and B: A Quick Look

These distinctions can seem tricky until you understand them, so here's the bottom line:

- Level A

- A child support case is not opened because it is not at all safe to pursue.

- Level B

- The state pursues child support without requiring the custodial parent/survivor to cooperate with the process because the survivor feels it is safe enough to do so.



How are CSOs doing?

- Currently, there are no statistics that show how many survivors seek good cause, how many are granted or denied good cause, and what levels are assigned.
- Anecdotes from survivors and advocates suggest practices vary widely from one CSO to another – and from one worker to another even within the same CSO.
- Some offices and individuals seem to be providing excellent services, and others are not.



What happens if a victim is denied good cause?

- Advocates need to draw upon their very best skills
 - Honoring confidentiality
 - Helping a victim to speak for herself to convince the CSO worker
 - With permission, speaking on the victim's behalf to the worker
 - With permission, going up the chain of command to resolve the problem
 - Helping a victim access the fair hearing process



Fair Hearings

- There is no excuse when a CSO jeopardizes the safety of a survivor and/or her children by denying good cause when it is needed to prevent further harm.
- survivors who have been denied good cause have almost always been successful in their appeals through the fair hearing process.
- Don't hesitate to use this process when victims are denied good cause and are put at risk.
- Often, just requesting a fair hearing will get the ball rolling to fix the problem. Sometimes you won't even get to the hearing part before a solution can be reached.



What's a fair hearing?

- If you need more information about fair hearings, how they work, and the best ways to access and use the system, the following websites are excellent resources:
 - <http://www.oah.wa.gov/DSHS.shtml>
 - <http://www.washingtonlawhelp.org/WA/>
(click on government benefits button)



The bottom line

- Survivors of domestic violence do not need to provide information and answer questions from CSO or DCS staff about the NCP if they are afraid that the father/domestic violence perpetrator will harm them or their kids if he is contacted, or if they are afraid he will retaliate if he is “billed” for child support.
- Use your best advocacy skills to prevent the CSO or DCS from imposing negative consequences on survivors.



Beyond Good Cause

5 other safety considerations

1. Remember how good DCS is at finding non-custodial parents through the Federal Parent Locator Service?
 - If you are working with a survivor who fled and is hiding from a violent abuser, and the couple's children are with the abuser, it's important to remember DCS could be looking for her in order to collect child support from her.
 - There are some address disclosure safeguards in the regulations for custodial parents, but these safeguards do not apply to non-custodial parents. Her address could easily be disclosed to the perpetrator – without any warning.



Beyond Good Cause

5 other safety considerations

2. survivors may be underestimating DCS's talent for finding non-custodial parents.
 - Some survivors may feel a false sense of security, imagining that DCS could never find the batterer – because he works under the table, because he never works, because he's always moving around, and so on.
 - Help survivors think again, because DCS *is* good and *may* find him. Sophisticated computer systems are always looking, 24-7. The technologies are always improving so the chances of him being found are very high. What will happen if they do find him?
 - Should the victim reconsider requesting good cause?



Beyond Good Cause

5 other safety considerations

- Things to consider regarding Medical Support.
 - If you get medical assistance, DCS will go after medical support from the NCP.
 - If the child gets put on the NCP's insurance, the NCP may receive statements when the insurance is used (possibly every time they go to the doctor).
 - These statements often include the name of the provider, provider's address, and dates of treatment.
 - If you are receiving Medical Assistance only (no cash), then you can ask DCS to not seek cash support. But they will seek medical support, and in certain cases can garnish wages to pay for the child's health insurance.



Beyond Good Cause

5 other safety considerations

4. Weighing *all* the benefits and risks

- If a survivor needs the child support money very badly and her financial safety needs outweigh her considerable personal safety risks, help her create (and change as needed) a safety plan that addresses her best guesses about the batterer's behavior.



Beyond Good Cause

5 other safety considerations

5. The debt is adding up!

- Just because a survivor is granted good cause does not mean the non-custodial parent's debt is frozen. In fact, if there is a support order in place, the debt keeps accruing (increasing). If five years from now, the survivor feels safe enough to go after the father for child support, she needs to know he could be hit with a big bill. How does she imagine he will react to that?



Knowledge is power

- The impact DCS has on survivors – both positive and negative – is important for advocates and survivors to know about.
- Pass your new knowledge along.



Resources

- The Center on Law and Social Policy has a great web site if you want to read more about the child support system. www.clasp.org
- One of the best books based on research and life stories of women living/surviving in poverty is *Making Ends Meet: How Single Mothers Survive Welfare and Low-Wage Work* by Kathryn Edin and Laura Lein



Resources

- Use these online manuals to look up the facts – the laws, regulations, and procedures that workers are supposed to use to serve domestic violence victims
 - The **A to Z manual** provides administrative rules and procedures for staff *to determine initial and ongoing eligibility* for people applying for and receiving cash, food and medical assistance. <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/manuals/eaz>
 - The **Social Services Manual** provides administrative rules and procedures *for staff who provide social services* to people applying for and receiving cash, food and medical assistance. <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/manuals/socialservices/>
 - The **WorkFirst Handbook** is the how-to manual for WorkFirst <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/ESA/wfhand/>

Keep going! You're almost at the end!



Congratulations!

- You've completed this portion of the course, now it's time to see how much you can remember.
- Click the link below to test yourself and to signal to us that you have completed this section so we can record your credit.
- No worries – we're not grading the quiz!
- [Take the quiz](#)