

## Chapter 4 Overview

Oregon's child welfare system is focused on improving family capacity to be self-sustaining while creating a safe and permanent living environment for children. Case planning includes working with the family to identify specific services needed to meet each family's needs. A caseworker considers all the information gathered during both the child safety and protective capacity assessments to develop a focused, systematic, time-limited plan to meet the safety, permanency and well-being needs of the children in partnership with the family, other key persons, service providers, agencies and systems involved with the family.

Case management of services to each family is a complex task, but has many benefits:

- Thoughtful case management is critical to address the safety and well-being of a child.
- Case management helps Child Welfare and families work collaboratively to develop activities and services to strengthen, preserve and reunify children with their parents.
- Case management improves communication among the caseworker, substitute caregiver, families, the supervisor, service providers and the courts.

Delivery of services to children and families is critical in achieving positive outcomes for Oregon's children and families. Successful intervention in the lives of abused and neglected children requires concurrent involvement of many different systems:

- The child and family
- Child welfare
- Service providers
- The court
- Education
- Medical and mental health professionals
- Attorneys
- CASAs
- Other local agencies that serve children and families
- Service providers support children and families through:
  - Medical and mental health services
  - Safety and reunification services
  - Housing services
  - Drug and alcohol treatment services
  - Other services
- Federal law, state statute and administrative rule provide the framework for providing and monitoring specific services for a family.
- Services are provided with sensitivity to a family's culture and ethnicity. A caseworker is responsible for coordinating referrals to services that are responsive to the unique cultural composition and needs of each child and family. Providing well-planned and coordinated service delivery increases the likelihood of achieving positive outcomes.

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ch4-Overview for Services to Children and Families

These procedures are written for all children and families served by child welfare staff. Each procedure describes the unique service options available and any special actions required for specific services with regard to Strengthening, Preserving, Reunifying Families (SPRF), In-Home Safety and Reunification Services (ISRS) and Flexible Funds.