

**COMPILATION OF
RECOMMENDATIONS
FROM PREVIOUS REPORTS
RELATING TO WASHINGTON'S
CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM**

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For Use By

The Joint Task Force on Child Safety for Children in Child Protective Services or Child Welfare Services
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ON-GOING SERVICE RECOMMENDATIONS

Monitoring

1. A separate unit should be established to monitor cases, which require on-going agency services. *Fatality Review* at 1 (*Champagne-Loop Review*).
2. DCFS must monitor the family after return of a child to ensure that in-home services agency indicated would be in place to support family are, in fact, in place. *OFCO 9/12 at 7 (Nobles Review)*.
3. The department should continuously assess the need for and implement appropriate services, as long as a case remains open for supervision. *OFCO 9/12 at 9 (Sotelo Review)*

Policy and Procedure

4. Revise and implement policy requiring regular health and safety checks for children returned to a parent's care. Make requirements for in-home health and safety checks of dependent children returned to a parent's care at least as stringent as the current standards set forth in CA Policy 01-02:
 - a. CA Policy 01-02 requires in-home contact with the child, twice a month, during the first 120 days of in-home placement, for children age birth to five. After the first 120 days, visits must occur at least monthly. *OFCO 9/12 at 6 (Sotelo Review)*.
5. Expedite efforts by CA to address policy issues regarding health and safety checks of dependent children in a parent's care, and to revise department manuals. *OFCO 9/12 at 7 (Sotelo Review)*.
6. Assure that caseworkers and supervisors are aware of existing requirements regarding health and safety visits. *OFCO 9/12 at 7 (Sotelo Review)*.
7. The case record should specifically document steps taken to provide services. *OFCO 9/12 at 7 (Sotelo Review)*.

In-home Services

8. In addition to requiring regular and consistent, in-home contact between the caseworker and the child and parent, the department should increase efforts to provide services to a child and family once a child is returned home. Existing tools, such as safety plans and service contracts should be utilized to assure that families engage in appropriate services. *OFCO 9/12 at 7 (Sotelo Review)*.
9. Increase efforts to provide services to a child and family once a child is returned home. Existing tools, such as safety plans and service contracts should be utilized to assure that families engage in appropriate services. The case record should specifically document steps taken to provide services. *OFCO 9/12 at 9 (Sotelo Review)*

Bibliography

1. "Recommendations of Respective CA Fatality Review Committees by Issue" Office of Family and Children's Ombudsman (*Fatality Reviews*), August 3, 2005.
2. "Child Fatality Review -- Summary" Office of Family and Children's Ombudsman (*OFCO 9/12*), September 12, 2005.