

Fact Sheet

for **YOUTH**

WHAT ARE THE DCYF *Internal Case Reviews?*

The Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) internal case reviews is a process by which DCYF looks at what is happening to children, youth, and families receiving services in the child welfare system.

A team of people from the agency work together on an internal review to determine whether the state is meeting federal requirements and how services can be improved. During the review, the team looks at specific cases, talks with people involved in those cases, and analyzes related data.

Outcomes: The internal case reviews takes a look at whether children, youth, and families involved in the child welfare system have positive outcomes; and it also examines areas where system improvements can be made in three areas: safety, permanency and well-being.

Some of the questions asked to assess these outcomes

include:

- Are children and youth safe in their homes?
- Can they stay with their families?
- If they are not safe, can their families receive the help they need to take care of their children?
- If children and youth come into foster care, have they stayed in contact with the people who are important to them?
- While in foster care, have children and youth been moved to different homes only when it is in their best interests?
- Have services provided to families improved their ability to care for their children?
- Are children and youth getting the services they need to be healthy and successful? What about physical health, mental health, and educational services?



Youth Involvement in the **INTERNAL CASE REVIEWS**

Bringing people together who can make a difference in the state child welfare system, hearing from youth about their experience is crucial to the internal case reviews. Youth often understand how the system works (or doesn't work) because they have experienced the child welfare system first-hand.

Youth can be involved in the internal case review by participating in the case related interviews.

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YOUTH INVOLVEMENT *in the Internal Case Reviews*

Youth cases may be selected for review. If that happens, they will have the chance to talk with someone about their experience. They may be asked questions like:

- ⇒ *Did you feel safe with your family or with your foster family?*
- ⇒ *What was your goal and did your caseworker talk to you about it?*
- ⇒ *What kinds of services did you get and did they help you?*
- ⇒ *How often did you see your caseworker and what did you talk about?*
- ⇒ *Were you placed with your siblings or with other family members?*
- ⇒ *What connections were important to you and did you get to keep them?*
- ⇒ *How did your caseworker help you with education or health/dental needs?*



Get INVOLVED

The voice of youth is critical to the internal case reviews process. Making positive changes that help children and youth in the child welfare system starts with understanding what youth have experienced. We hope youth will get involved and speak out.

Work with Rhode Island's youth advisory board, which is in the process of reorganizing (ask your caseworker for details) and look for ways the group can provide suggestions for improvements in Rhode Island's child welfare system.

For MORE Information

Additional information on the federal Child and Family Services Reviews (on which the DCYF Internal Case Reviews are based) is available on the Children's Bureau's Website (<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/monitoring/child-family-services-reviews>)

or from:

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