

To learn more about the Child Welfare system in Washington State, visit the DCYF website:

<https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/child-welfare-system/cps>

Other helpful Child Welfare learning resources:

- [Understanding the Dependency Court Process](#) (multiple languages)
- Learn more about the Child Health and Education Tracking (**CHET**) process [here](#), & the policy that guides this process (including what information they must include in their report) [here](#)
- Use the [DCYF employee directory](#) to find contact and supervisor information for any currently employed state Social Worker
 - **IMPORTANT:** Note which office the Social Worker is from (listed in employee directory search results). If the Social Worker changes or there are any questions about who the assigned SW is at any point throughout the duration of a case, you can contact reception for that office and request the name of the Social Worker who is currently assigned to a child. You can find contact information for Child Welfare offices [here](#)
- For official documentation of a caregiver’s authorization to provide medical/educational care for a child, request a copy of the “Caregiver Authorization” (**DCYF 10-454**) form

Additional information that can be useful to collect from families with children in dependency (at intake, or as early as possible)

- Has child lived in a household where a language other than English was primarily spoken?
 - Purpose: determine primary language for services, address/avoid confusion for child
- What is known of child’s health history (information may be incomplete, and that’s ok!)
 - Gestation (pre-natal care, pre-natal substance exposure, stressors)
 - Birth (hospital, complications, weight/vitals)
 - Post-natal (test for substance in system, supplemental oxygen, NICU, withdrawal, etc.)
- **For children living with a caregiver in an out-of-home placement**
 - Placement history & case status:
 - When was child placed into your care?
 - Who were they living with before you?
 - Have they had any prior placements? How many and how long?
 - Current visitation (which parent, location, frequency, length)
 - Do you have any relation, contact, or connection with birth family?
 - How do you prefer to be referred to by the child? (example: mama Jane, Ms. Jane, etc.)
 - Does child have an assigned CASA or GAL at this time? (request appointment letter or “Notice of Appearance”)
 - Are you licensed through a private agency? (request ROI, add as contact)
 - Explain that parents are invited to participate in services (format depending on parent & caregiver comfort level)

Created for the 2022 IECC presentation “Including Parents & Caregivers: A Wholistic Approach to ESIT Services for Children in Dependency” by the CHERISH™ program.

For more information about CHERISH™, visit www.cherish-kinderling.org

