

Region IX – Domestic Violence Survivors & TANF

Mending the Sacred Hoop

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Credentials – Experience working in the field

- Twenty five years
- American Indian & Alaska Native Women Survivors
- Prior to VAWA
- Started a program
- Passage of VAWA

Intended consequences VS unintended consequences.



Brief Historical Analysis

- Examine the history of oppression
- Began in 1492 – loss of culture and status of Native women
- 1700's spread across the eastern seaboard & negative impacted men & women's roles with foreign ideals
- Systemic destruction of Native cultures including the denigration of Native women



Analysis Continued

- Exposed to values of colonizers
- Process of internalized values
- Foreign Beliefs – Changed the status of Native women & roles of men & women



Remembering Who We Are

- Why are women considered sacred?
- Are women sacred in your community?
- What kinds of rights did women have traditionally in your community?
- What is the role of men in your community?
- What role did spirituality have in keeping women sage?



Restoring Cultural Values about Who Are We

- Where did the lessons about safety come from?
- What traditionally happened to people who hurt women & children?
- What does it mean to be Native
- Are their stories or traditions in your community that explains what a good marriage was?



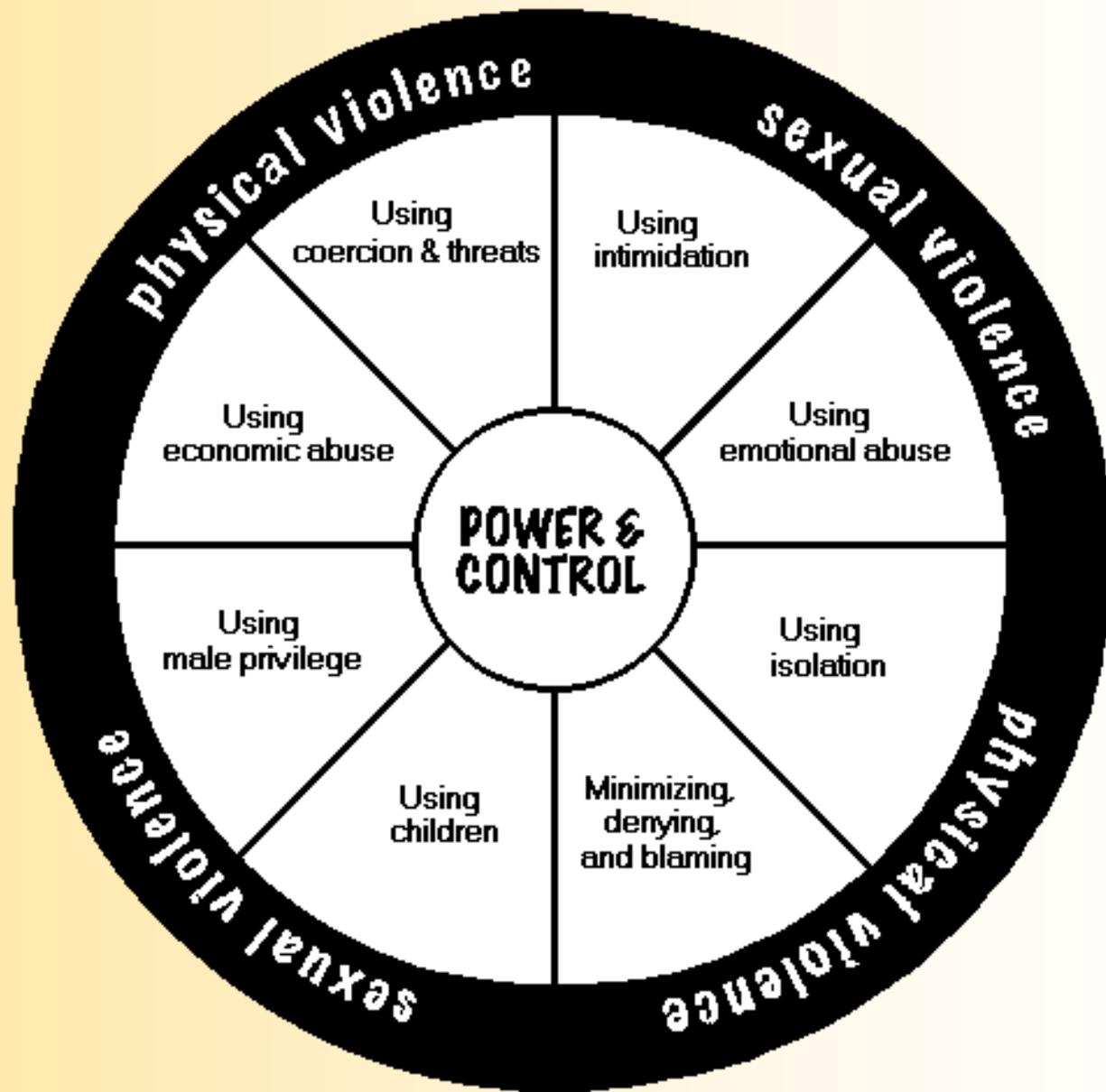
Sundance Story

- *There we women were, standing on the side-lines, just outside the arbor, pouring rain, occasional lightning strikes, observing the men at “Sundance” trying to raise the tree of life; a 90 foot cotton wood upright into a prepared hole dug into the ground. belonging.*



Working from a Common Framework of Understanding

- **Power & Control Theory:** *This theory frames domestic violence in a social context, looking at violence in relationships as a result of learned social behaviors that are rooted in many institutions and re-enforced by cultural values.*



Definition



Pattern

Assaultive

Coercive

Behaviors

Compliance



Anger Management

- Defines violence as anger
- Uses poor impulse control
- Accepts the batterer is provoked into reacting a certain way and has not control over his emotions



What We Need In Order To Do This Work

- Understanding the power dynamics of domestic violence
- Core of the work must have safety for women as the focus, at each intervening level, ask yourself if a women is safer.



Barriers for Women

- Transportation
- Childcare
- Work experience/livable wages
- Isolation-Where do we go when it's -40 below?

- Women in Construction – Economic Justice



Strategies for addressing barriers

- Improving working relationship between TANF and child support enforcement to provide support for women leaving abusive relationship
- *Tribal support for transportation; shuttle services*
- *Development of Tribal child care co-ops hiring youth and/or elders*



Strategies Continued; Aunties and Grandmothers

- Creating opportunity for life skills classes.
 - *Budgeting, making money stretch*
 - *Feeding large families on a budget*
 - *Gardening, subsistence, recipes and cooking of traditional foods to improve our health*



Education and Job Training: Women in Construction

- Economic Justice
- *Train women to work in the trades*
- *Provide Mentoring*
- *Lindy*
- *Starting pay*
- *Builds Green*
- *Volunteers from across the country each summer*
- *Houses*
- *Restaurants*
- *Historical Remodel Projects*



Education and Job Training

- Tribal economic support for apprenticeship programs; carpentry, plumbing, electrician, welder
- *Development of private entrepreneur and co-ops for victims to enter small business to sell crafts, quilts, pottery, beadwork*



Housing Advocacy

- Work with tribal housing authorities to prioritize housing needs for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault to obtain affordable, decent housing, home weatherization and grant for home improvement



Economic Advocacy

- Coordinate with tribal programs and tribal leadership to leverage and direct more resources for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.
 - *Buffalo Herds*
 - *Producing traditional food items*
 - *Tourism; Alaska, Arizona (guides)*
 - *Incentives: TANF recipients for achievements; cash card, food items, products*



Edwin Buck Jr. Memorial - Minnesota



Gardening, Greenhouses, and farms

- Kenaitze Indian Tribe in AK – 1982
 - *Two Commercial sized greenhouses, works with the Women, Infants and Children program*
- Oneida Nation of Wisconsin
 - 500 steers and buffalo, apple orchard with over 4,000 trees producing 18 kinds of apples



Safety Planning

- One end of the continuum is ***imminent physical violence***

- If she is not ready to leave how does she keep herself safe?

Further down the continuum is ***deciding to leave the batterer***

The most dangerous time for a woman as her batterer loses control over her & typically escalates the tactics



- Graphic on Escalating Danger and Increased Entrapment



Barriers to Confidentiality

- Tribal Communities & the “Indian Telegraph”
- Rural communities – Scanners
- “For all my relations”
- Storytelling vs. Gossip
- Privacy & location of programs



Strategies for Ensuring Confidentiality

- Respect for the Safety of Women
- Leadership; be a role model
- Do not require heavily written safety plan
- Use Sovereignty
 - *Create statutory privilege communications*
 - *Tribal Judges have the ability & authority to issue opinions*
 - *Look to your own common law or court decisions to see whether there were or are any type of privileges*



Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Survivors - Exemptions

- Hardship
- Family Violence Option
- Good Cause (child support)
- Tribe vary as well as States



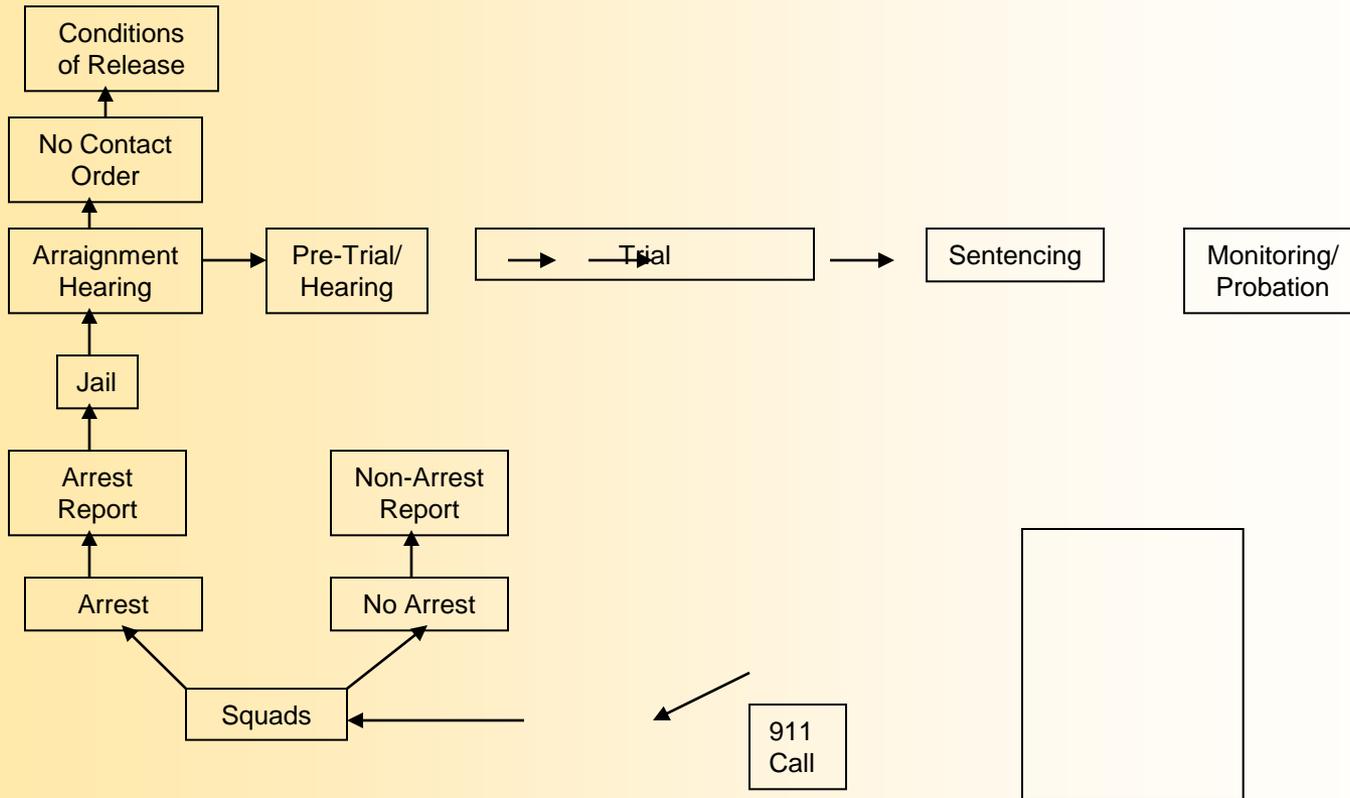
Written Policies

- Family Violence Option – Purpose
 - *Identify applicants who are abuse victims while protecting their confidentiality; how?*
 - *Refer abuse victims to domestic violence supportive services; who are they?*
 - *Informing battered women - posting*

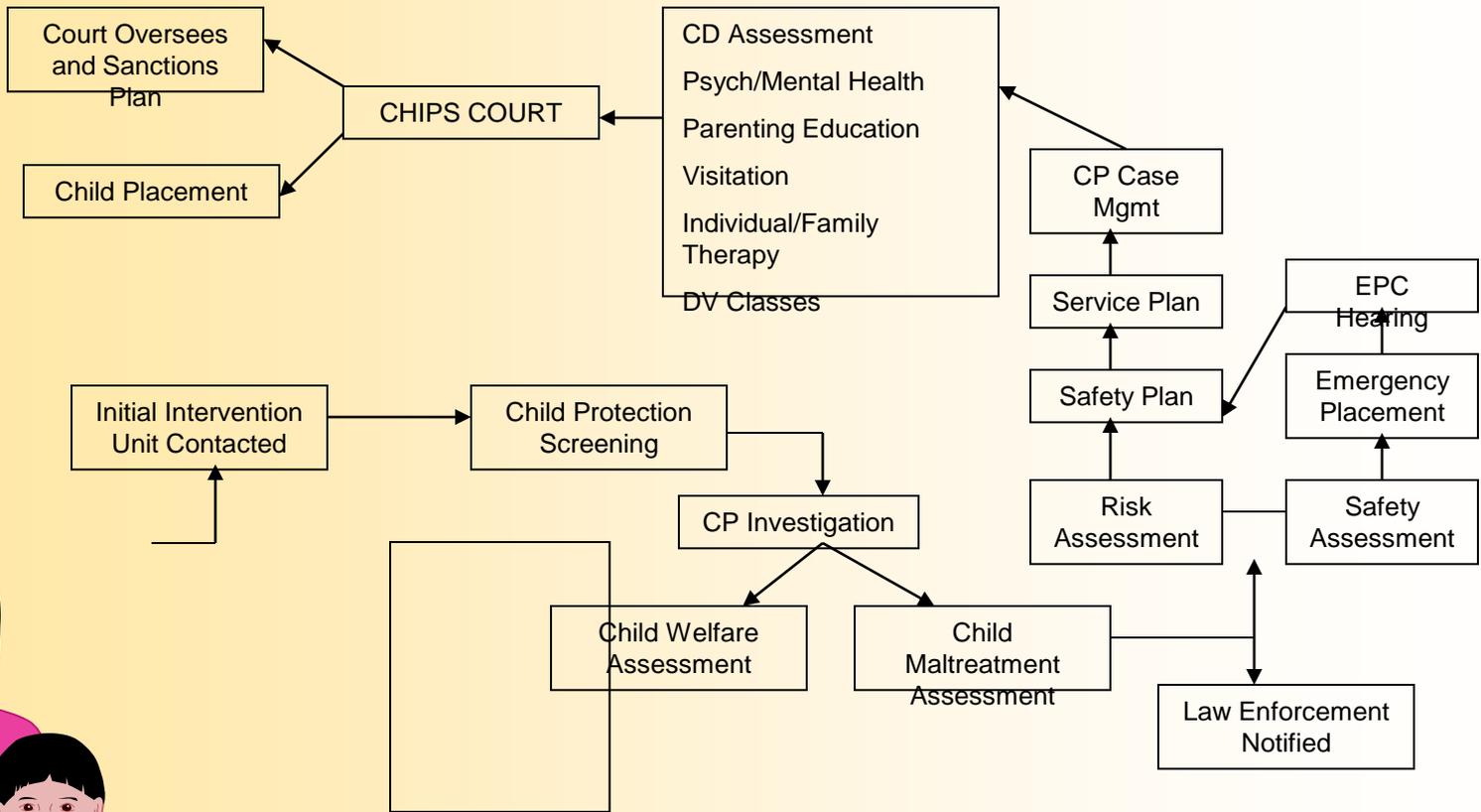


Additional Thoughts

- Departments that manage TANF influence policies and procedures; education vs. social services
- *Annual training on domestic and sexual violence affecting women*
- *Evaluate periodically for any unintended consequences*
 - *Examine your protocol for informing women*
 - *Review complaints or grievances on confidentiality*
 - *Review denials of waivers*



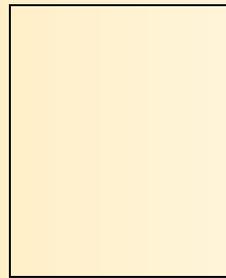
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE/ ARREST INCIDENT



CHILD PROTECTION MAP



HOUSING MAP



Landlord/HRA
Notified

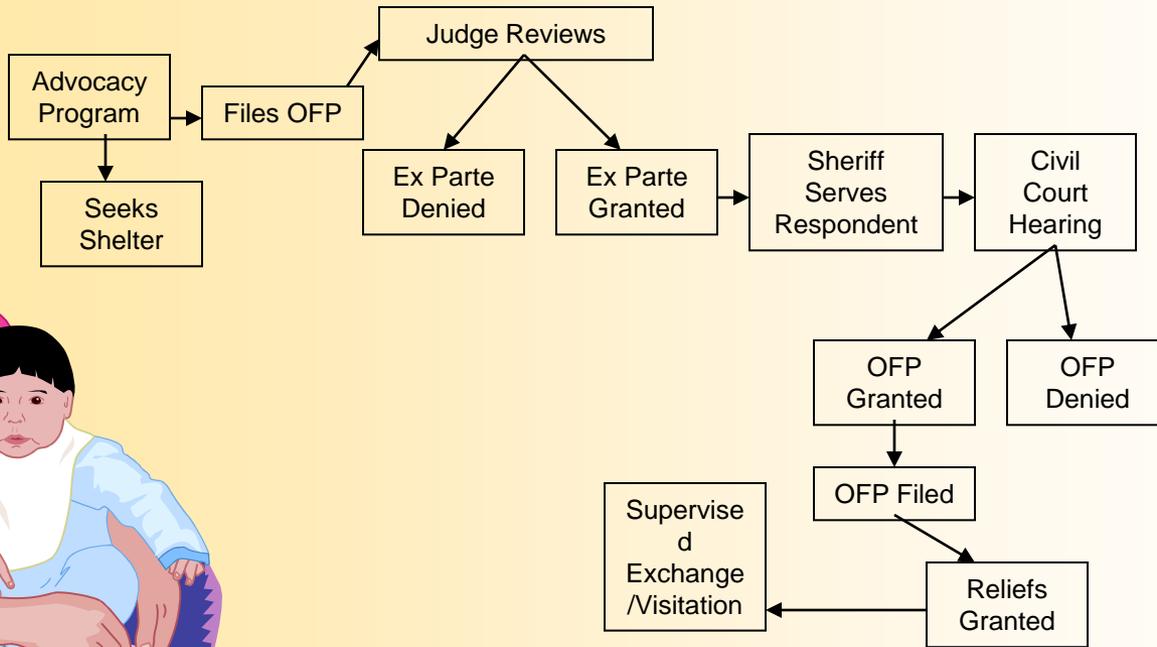
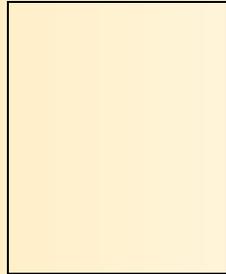
Warning Given

Eviction Hearing

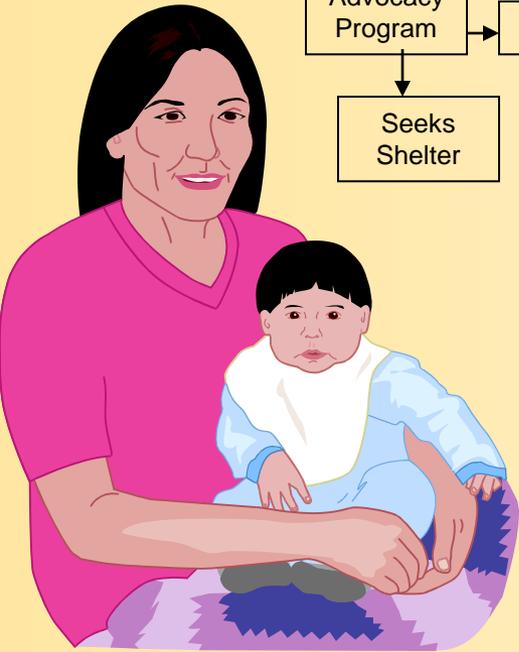
Sheriff Evicts



ORDER FOR PROTECTION – CIVIL COURT PROCESS

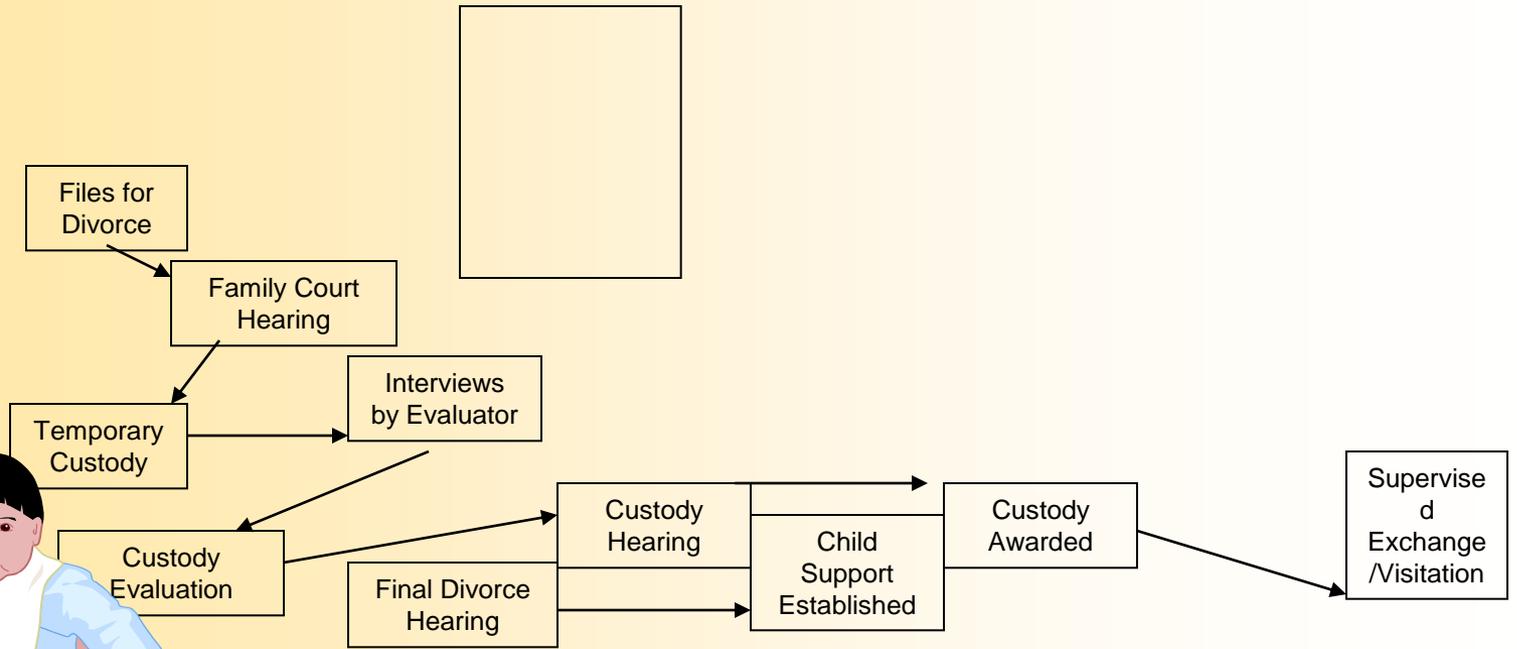


Granted





CUSTODY MAP





Rosa Case Scenario

- Who and what institutions, programs, and agencies will be involved in the case scenario and why?
- As a TANF program what needs do you anticipate Rosa will have to access and why?
- Identify barriers that Rosa may encounter as a result of the assault.



Resources

- Mending the Sacred Hoop
- 202 East Superior Street
- Duluth, MN 55802
- 888-305-1650
- Resources
- www.mshoop.org