

Using an SSP to Enhance GAL Practice

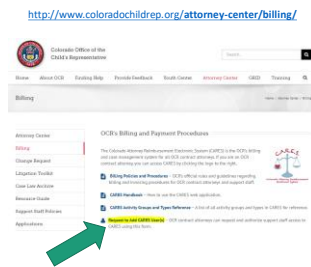
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1

Need an SSP Now?

- If you know someone who you'd like to have approved as an SSP, Alex is happy to discuss.
 - Request through OCR's website (at right)
 - Generally a BA in related field OR two plus years of related experience
- If you are looking for an SSP, OCR may know one in your area.



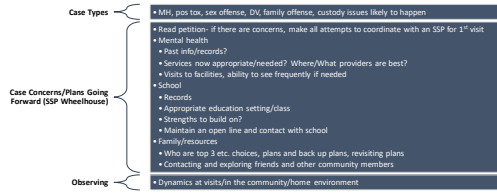
2



How to find an SSP?

- OCR may potentially contract with SSPs to offer a pool of approved SSPs to contractors
- Other GALs have found SSPs through DHS, therapists, asked that one of their own staff be approved (i.e. an experienced paralegal)
- Options: Hire as employee or contract on hourly basis

3



When to consider using an SSP

4

CJD Requirements – How SSPs can assist with the independent investigation

5

SSP can do out-of-court advocacy on GAL appointments

- Any strategy to approach/dealing with individuals/agencies between GAL/SSP, who has best qualities for current discussion, maybe one person has particular fit to get info/things done, can change over time
- GAL/SSP good cop/bad cop, understanding person empathizing/other keeping focus on problematic inescapable facts of life/case
- Helps creative planning; even in disagreement, ensures all points are considered and ultimately leads to better decision making
- More ability to be responsive to surprises/changes as opposed to being tied to court and later reacting
- Person in crisis probably will require more consistent contact to have chance to help deescalate (if not, more likely you'll get- who are you to me, why should I listen to you, etc.). SSP can get more directly revealed personal knowledge to call on, more face to face "credit" to have better chance of being heard
- SSPs not therapist but crisis management to avoid unwanted/unneeded additional system intervention, odds are crisis management to be expected at some point/s

6

Positives too!



BETTER CHANCE OF LEARNING OF INTERESTS/SUPPORTS



SSP HAS ABILITY TO OBSERVE MORE, BUILD SOME LEVEL OF TRUST FASTER, GAIN INSIGHT. MORE OPEN DIALOGUE WITH TRUSTED OUTLET.



SSP MAY HAVE BETTER ABILITY/AVAILABILITY TO BUILD PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS IN THE DIFFERENT SYSTEMS CLIENT(S) ARE IN.

7

Say what?

Translating legalese, observing body language

8

Tasks NOT appropriate for SSP

Daily/weekly transporting of child to appointments/school etc., supplying daily needs of client regularly

Keep reasonable efforts in mind

- Shouldn't take the place of caseworker
- Ensure DHS is doing their part
- Not service providers

The client needs a system that is functioning *after* you're done with the case

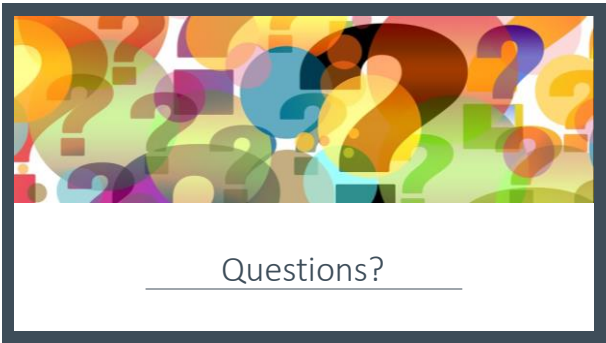
9



10

Billing

- Current policy / allowed billing
- What you can't bill for (e.g. double-billing)
- OCR may consider a change, but budget changes must be approved by the JBC
- Important to talk about efficiencies



11
