

CWS2141W: STRATEGIES FOR INVOLVING PARENTS IN OOFs

What We Need to Ask Mothers and Fathers

In out of family cases, mothers and fathers should be interviewed to determine:

- What has child told their mother and/or father concerning the alleged abuse?
- What physical or behavioral indicators have they observed?
- If mothers and/or fathers know the alleged abuser/neglector, what is their relationship with him/her?
- What is the relationship between the alleged abuser/neglector and their child?
- Have they questioned him/her about the alleged abuse? If so, what response did they receive?
- Are the mother and/or father open to the possibility that the abuse/neglect occurred?
- What are their options for alternative care in the event their child must be removed from a facility?

Information to Provide to Mothers and Fathers

Help mothers and fathers understand what has happened and what is likely to happen so they can support the child:

- Explain the steps in the investigation process and the roles of the regulatory and investigative agencies
- Advise them they will be kept informed to the extent the information does not violate another's rights or breach confidentiality.
- Alert them to possibility that child may recant.
- Tell them not to question the child but to be open or available if child wants to talk about incident.
- Give them information on how to help child and family deal with process and specific behaviors.
- Offer a referral to a supportive service
- Give them a name and number to call if they have questions as the investigation proceeds or think of something else that may be helpful

NOTE: If mothers and/or fathers are not in regular contact with child, you may need to involve social workers, guardians, or volunteers who are.
