



**SAFE
STRONG
SUPPORTIVE**

casey family programs

**Strengthening
Our Practice
at the
Beginning**

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safe children | strong families | supportive communities

Overview

- **Frameworks**
 - Safety, Hope, and Resilience
- **Preventive Legal Advocacy**
- **Adding Safety to the Pick-Up Order**
 - Iowa 7 Judges, 4 Questions.
- **High Quality Shelter Care Hearings**
 - Structure v. Practice

HOPE THEORY



Safety Assessment

- Gathering Information
- Foundation for Case Analysis

Safety Plans

- Based on Safety Assessment
- In-Home
- Out-of-Home

Conditions for Return

- Based on Safety Assessment
- Foundation for Case Plan

Assessing Safety in Family Time

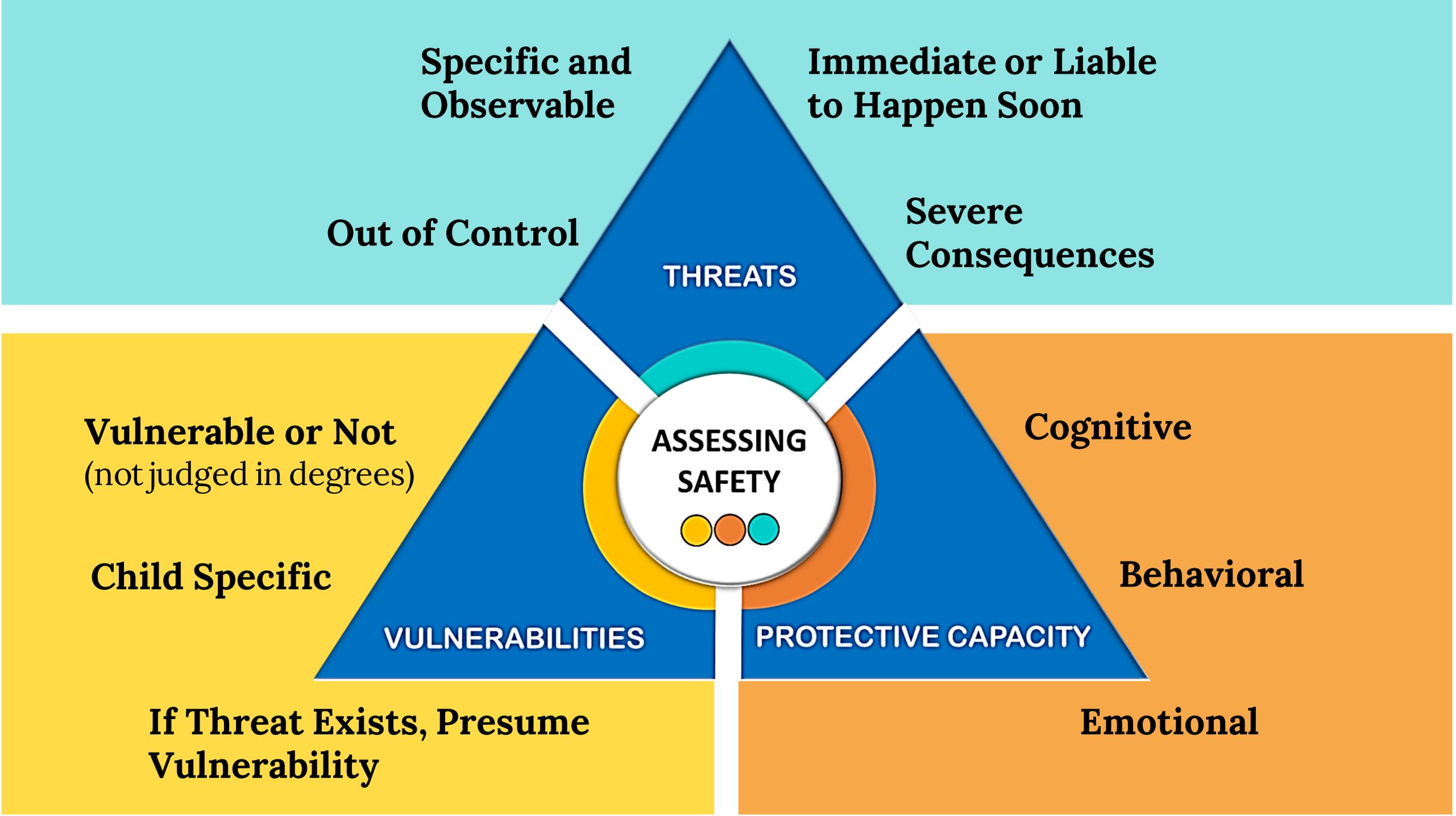
- Building Visitation Structure That Provides Safety in Context of Visits
- Articulate Plan for Reduction of Supervision, Increase Time, and Least-Restrictive Environment Possible

Case Plans, Progress, and Ongoing Safety Assessment

- Assessing Progress in Case Plan
- Ongoing Assessments of Current Safety Threats



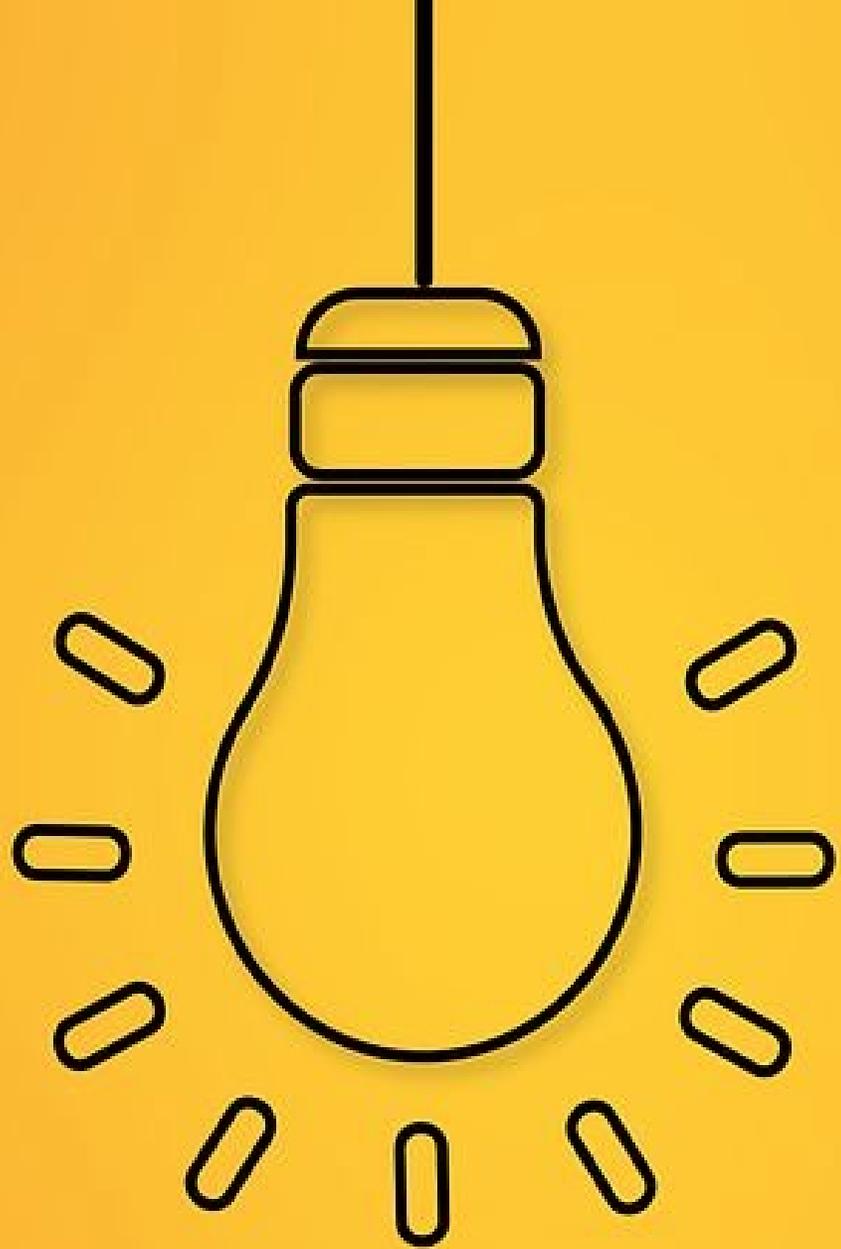
Assessing Safety





Are there sufficient
protective capacities to protect
from **threats** to which
the child is
vulnerable
IN THE CONTEXT
OF A Family Time?

Safety Planning

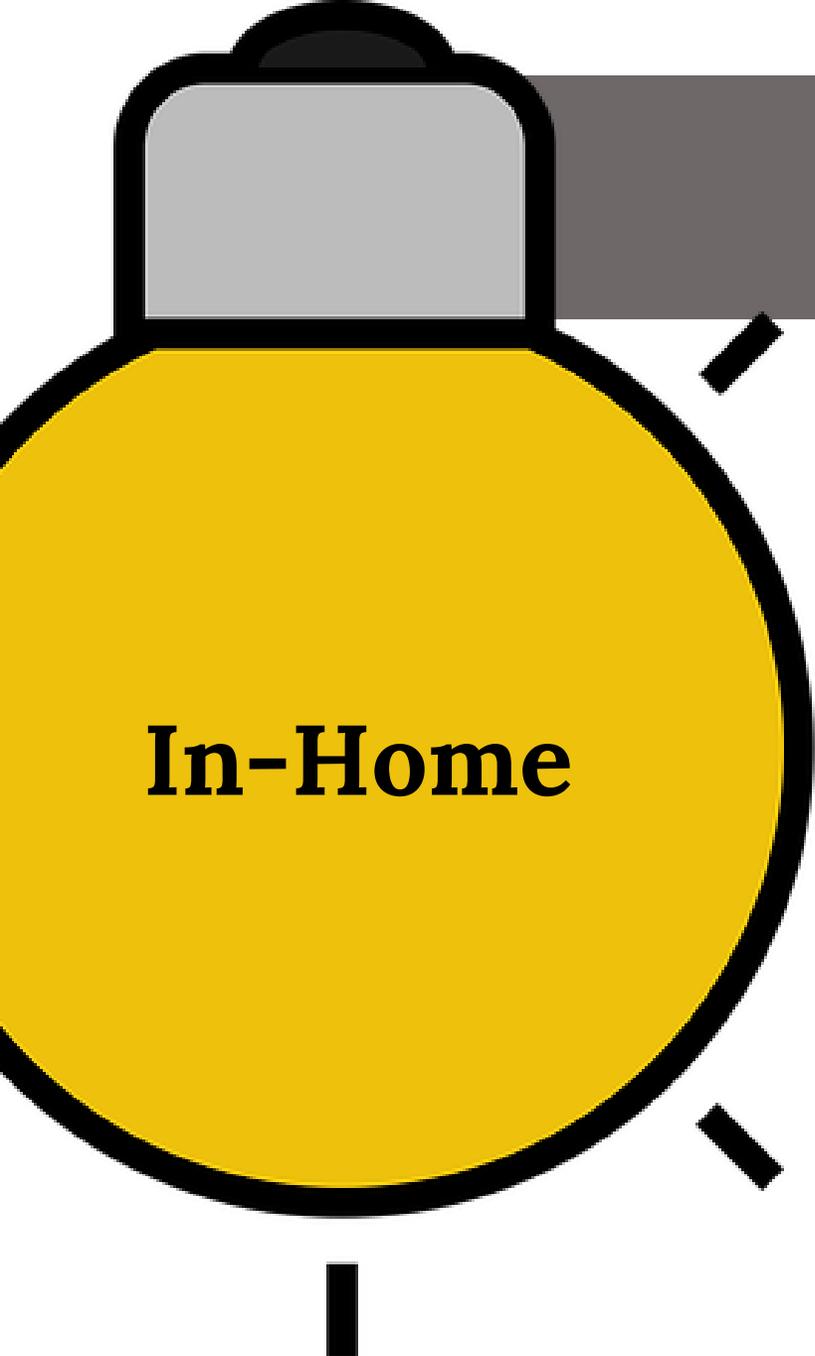


**Does NOT require
change in parents
behavior or
attitude**

**Controls threats
IMMEDIATELY**



Safety Planning



In-Home

Assessing Reasonable Efforts

Actions or Services to Control or
Manage Threats

Case Plans, Assessing

Progress, and Ongoing

Safety Assessment

Case Planning

Usually requires changing in parental behavior

Use Safety Framework to design case plan

Looking toward the Court and Dept exiting Family.



Evaluating Progress

Why Can't Children Go Home Today?



Reduction of Threats?

Emergence of New Threats?

Status of Protective Capacity?

Current Information for Answers?

If no progress, why?

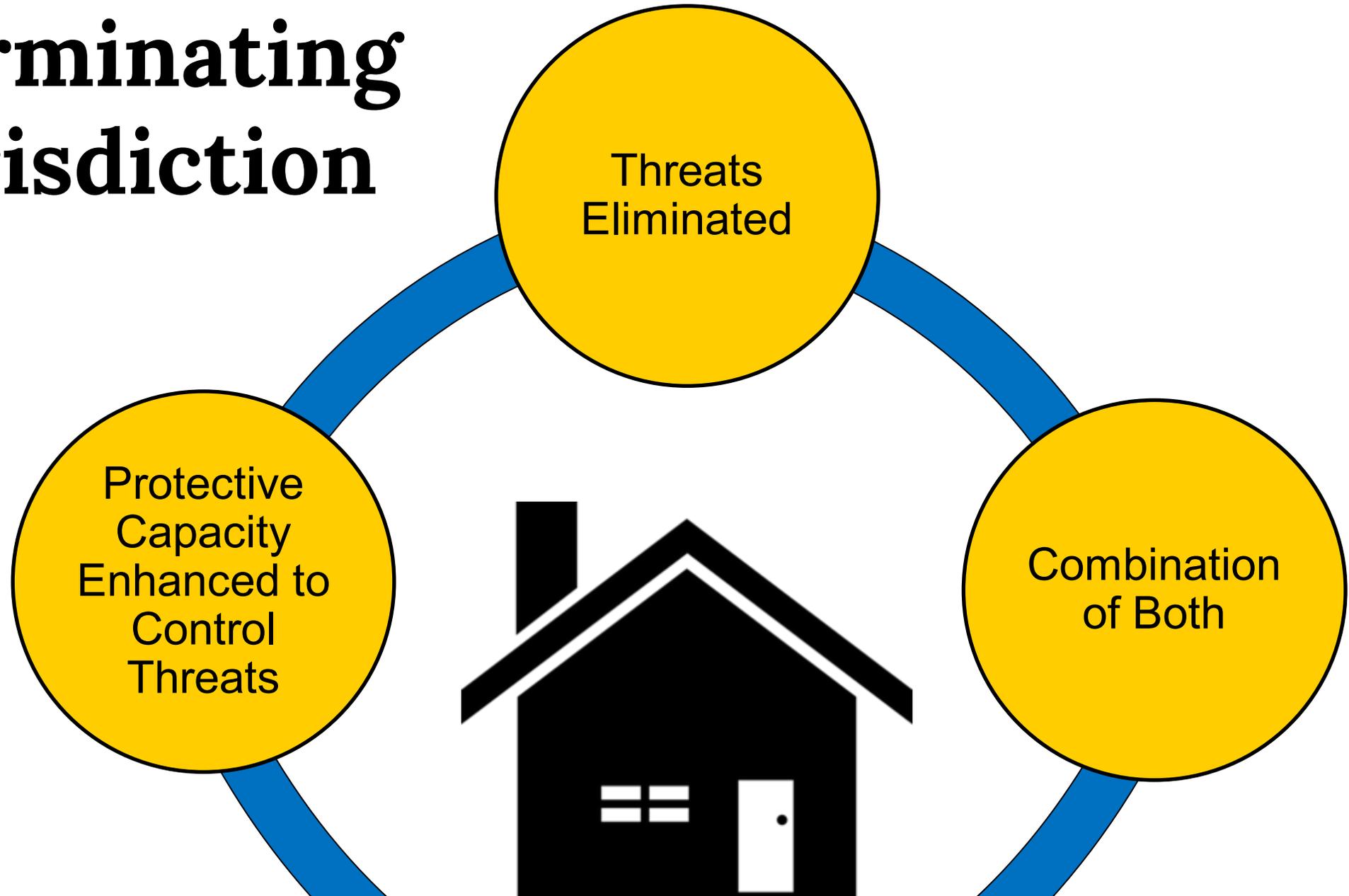
Demand Information/Perspective of Parents



Are we preparing the caregiver to support reunification?

**Reunification is a Plan,
Not an Event.**

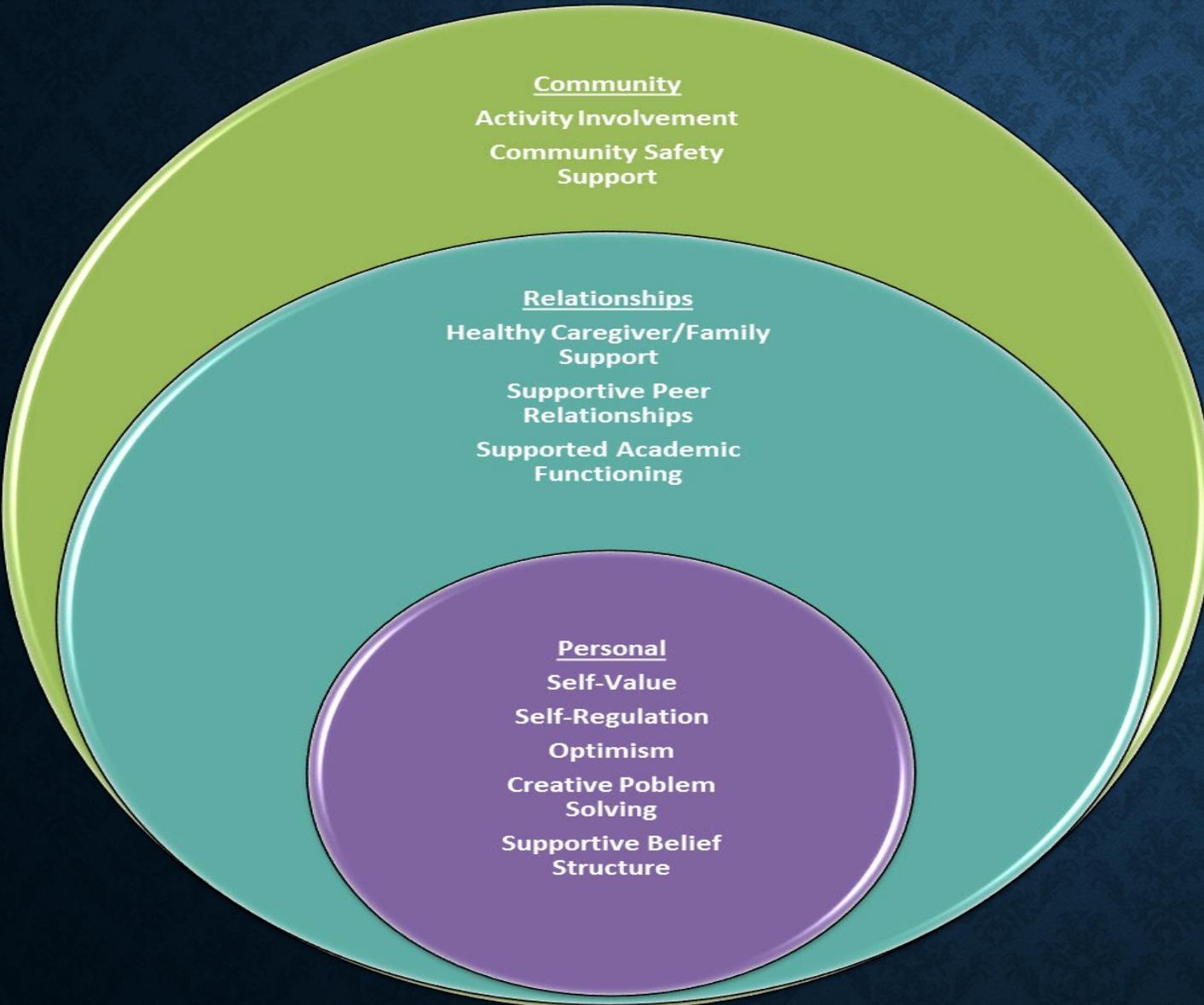
Terminating Jurisdiction



HOPE THEORY



Build Resilience



Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experience (HOPE) – Dr. Bob Sege, Pediatrician Tufts Medical Center, Boston

- **RELATIONSHIPS** with other children and adults
- **SAFE, EQUITABLE, STABLE ENVIRONMENTS** for living, playing, learning at home and school
- **SOCIAL AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT** to develop a sense of belonging and connectedness
- **EMOTIONAL GROWTH** through playing and interacting with peers for self-awareness and self-regulation

Any effort to address
past trauma that does not
include empowerment is
doomed to fail.

Herman, Judith. (1992) Trauma and Recovery. Basic Books.



CONTINUUM OF HIGH QUALITY LEGAL ADVOCACY TO SUPPORT CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING

thefirstclinic.org

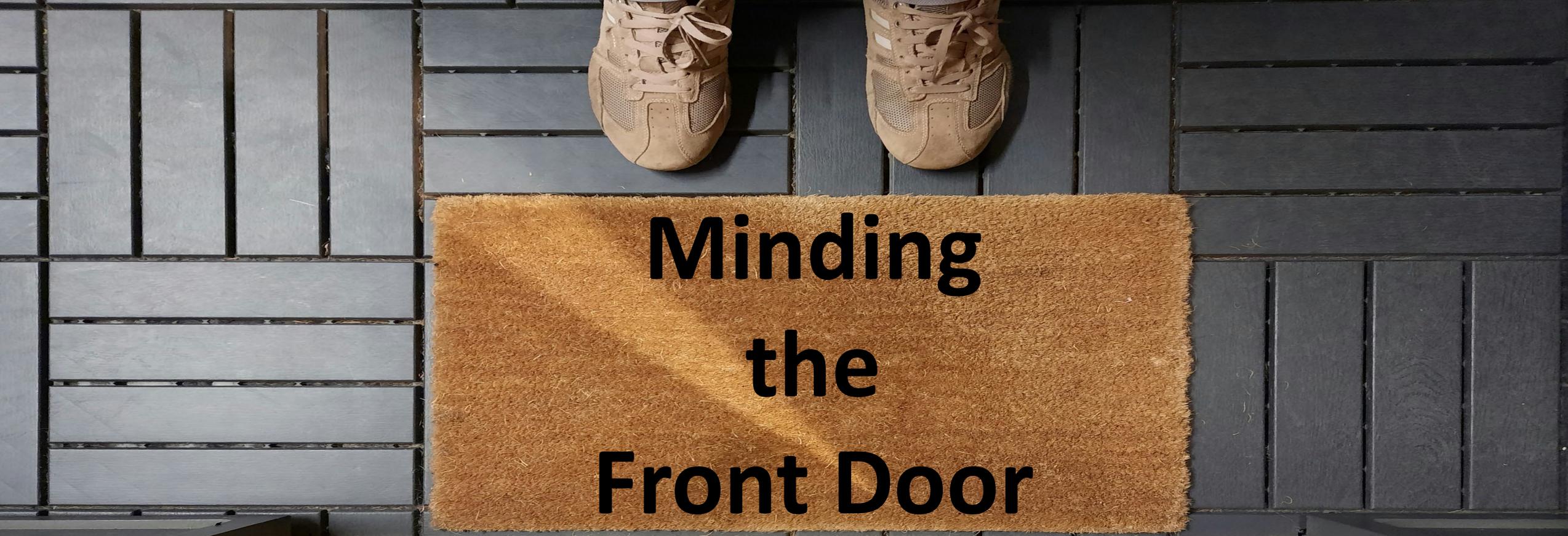
Nurturing Hope, Preventing Trauma

**OUR GOAL IS TO PREVENT THE
TRAUMA OF FAMILY SEPARATION.**

DETROIT CENTER FOR FAMILY
ADVOCACY



REPLICATION MANUAL



**Minding
the
Front Door**



Iowa 7 Judges, 4 Questions

1. What can we do to remove the danger instead of the child?
2. Can someone the child or family knows move into the home to remove the danger?
3. Can the caregiver and child go live with a relative or fictive kin?
4. Could the child move temporarily to live with a relative or fictive kin.

Iowa 7 Judges, 4 Questions

- Reduction of removals by half during study period
 - Increase in relative placement
 - Increase in fictive kin placement
 - Decrease in shelter placement
 - Rate of foster care placement remained same
- Subsequent to the study – drop in removal requests
- Project part of Round 3 PIP – now moving statewide



Strengthening the Front Door of the Courthouse

National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) – Preliminary Protective Hearing Benchcard

- Persons who should be present at the preliminary protective hearing.
- Courts can make sure that parties and key witnesses are present.
- Review relevant documents
- Consider whether there are any related cases in juvenile or other courts

NCJFCJ – Preliminary Protective Hearing Benchcard

Conducting the Hearing

- Opening the Hearing
- Due Process Considerations
- Engage Parents and Any Children or Relatives Present
- Key Inquiries, Analysis, Findings, and Decisions at Preliminary Protective Hearing
 - Reflections to address bias
 - ICWA, Legal Threshold for Removal (Safety), Reasonable Efforts, Safety Plan, Placement Appropriateness,
- Concluding the Hearing – Preparing for next hearing, Engaging Parents, Children, Family Member.

Discussion

Practice and Structure

- What Practice Improvements are you interested in?
- What are Structural Improvement you want to make that enable, promote, or mandate good Practice?



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