



“The Court
Finds...”

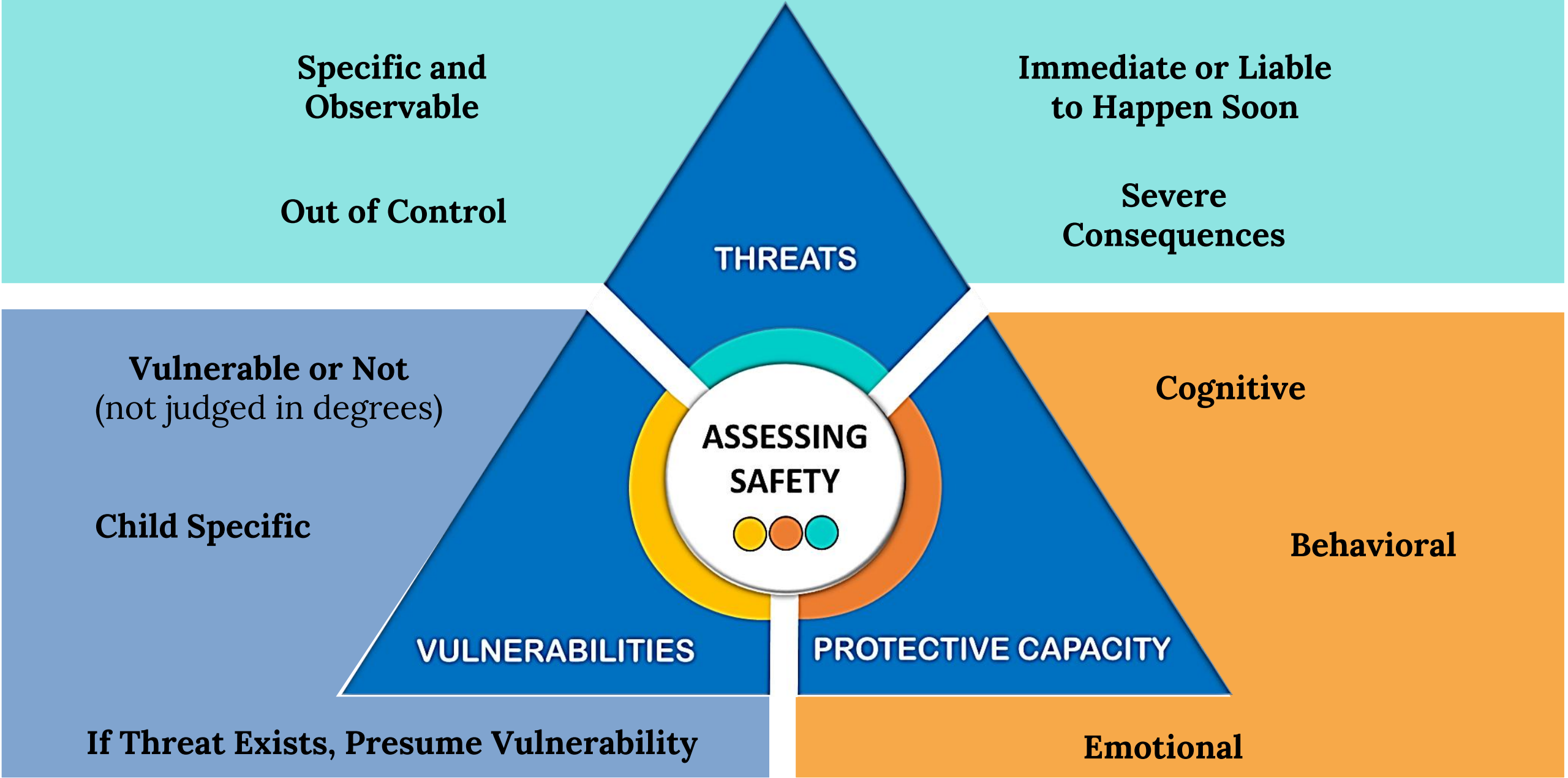
*Legal Evaluation of
Evidence in Virginia
Child Protection
Decisions*

casey family programs

SAFE
STRONG
SUPPORTIVE

SAFE CHILDREN STRONG FAMILIES SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES
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safe children | strong families | supportive communities



How do you assess father's availability
to provide safe parenting?



How Does Implicit Bias Creep in...?

- **Priming**
- **Social Judgeability**
- **Motivated Skepticism (confirmation bias)**
- **Moral Attribution Error**

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

Case Plan

- Based on Safety Assessment
- Eliminates Threats or Enhances Protective Capacity

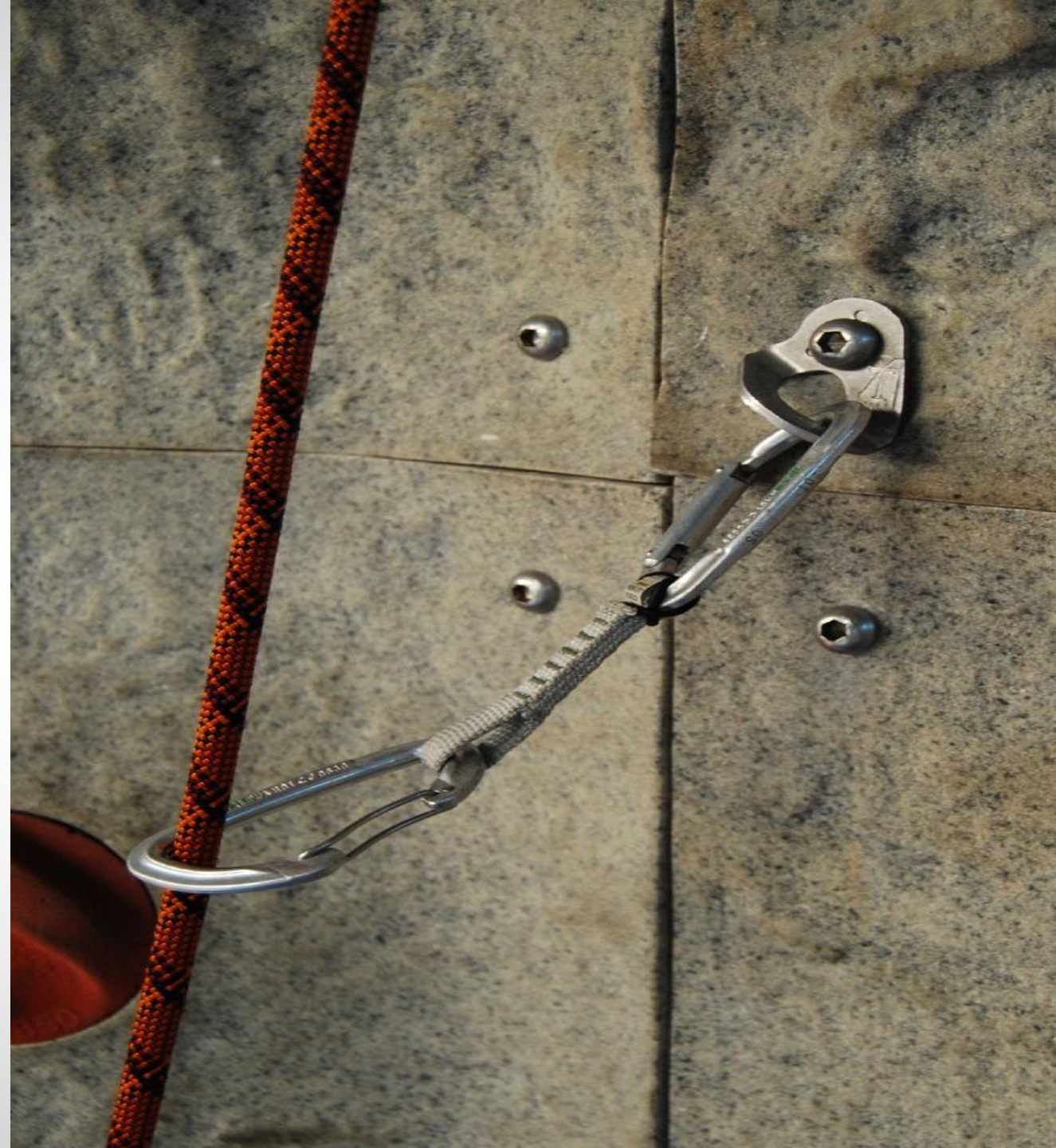
Progress, Reunification, Dismissal

- Judged against Safety Assessment
- Reunification $\neq$ Dismissal



Safety Planning

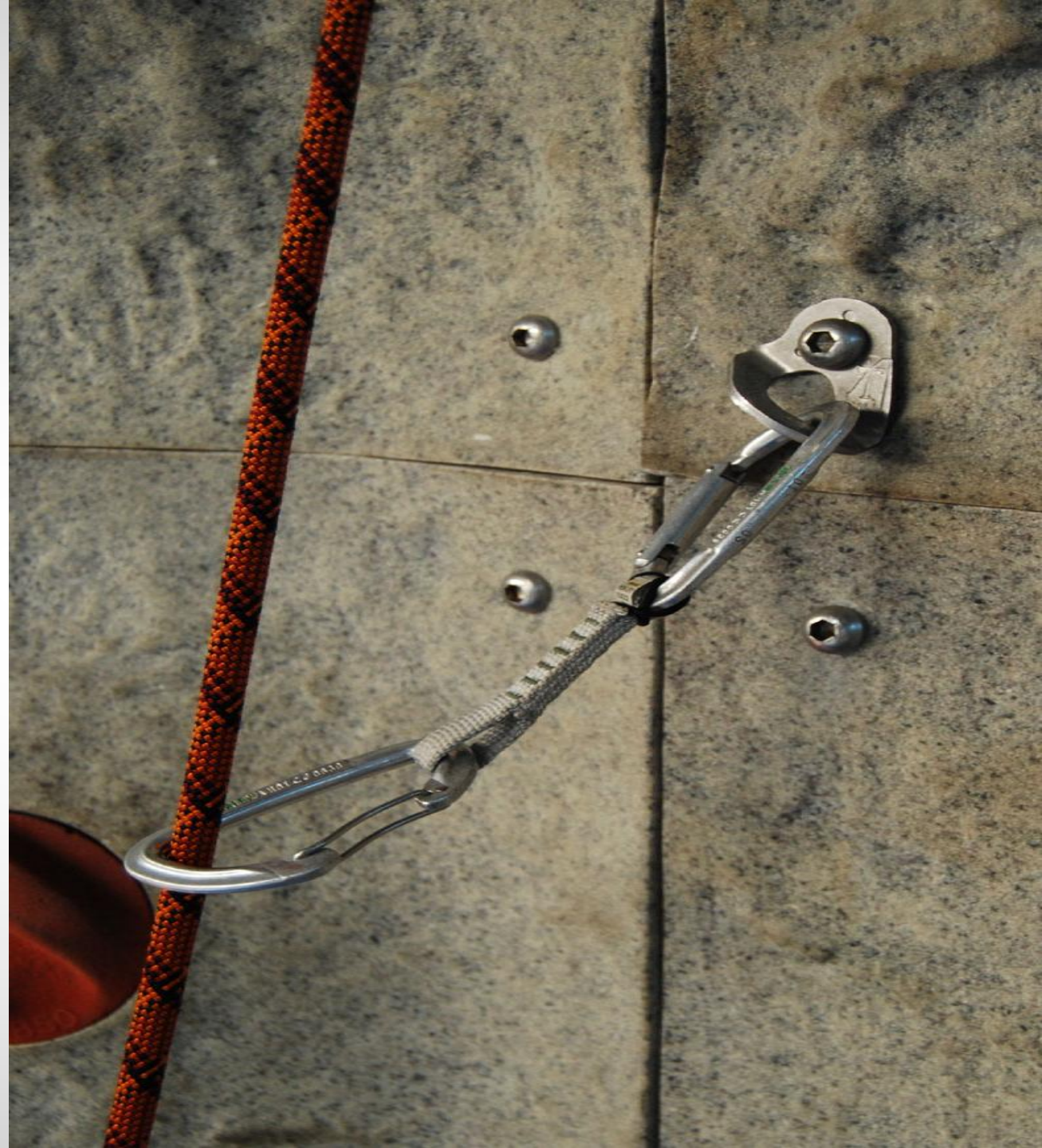
- Does not require change in parents behavior or attitude
 - Controls threats – immediately
-
- Sufficient
 - Feasible
 - Sustainable
-
- Assessing Reasonable Efforts
 - Actions or Services to Control or Manage Threats



Safety Planning

Out-of Home Plan

- **Assessing Reasonable Efforts**
- **Conditions for Return - Clearly**
 - **Value Congruence**
 - **Behavior/Circumstance-Based Language**
- **Kind and Amount of Parent-Child contact.**



Additional Facts Related to Accomplishing Safety Plan

- Mother's sister is not able to come over to help with the family until she "works some things out with her boss" about her work schedule.
- The Father's family (his brother and his mother) do not believe he is abusive and should not need help with the kids. They don't understand why the department is involved, and so the social worker was not successful talking to them about participating in a safety plan.
- Jasmine's daycare unregistered her after too many absences, and has a general rule that a family waits until the following quarter to re-enroll.

Assessing Safety in Family Time

Visitation provisions in Oregon Children's code

419B.090 (Policy...)

(3) It is the policy of the State of Oregon to safeguard and promote each child's right to safety, stability and well-being and **to safeguard and promote each child's relationships with parents, siblings, grandparents, other relatives and adults with whom a child develops healthy emotional attachments.**

419B.337 (Placement in custody of Department of Human Services; dismissal) – dispo orders

(3) **The court may make an order regarding visitation by the ward's parents or siblings.** The Department of Human Services is responsible for developing and implementing a visitation plan consistent with the court's order.



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

Family Time Plans

**Quick to
Start**



**Alternative
Contact**



**Written Plan
(Court Order)**



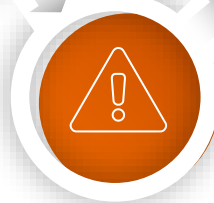
**Include
Siblings**



**Explain
Supervision**



**Right of Family
(Not Carrot-and-Stick)**



Elements of family time can be used to create safety, promote family bonding, and help children adjust to being out of home.



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