

FREE VIRTUAL CLE/CEU

SAFE VS. UNSAFE (PART 2) ONGOING ASSESSMENT OF SAFETY IN CINC CASES

**APRIL 20, 2023
12 - 1 PM**

Register for Free: <https://bit.ly/April23CIPCafe>

PART TWO OF TWO CIP CAFÉS FOCUSING ON SAFETY

Child Welfare Assessment and Decision-Making Model (CWADM), the framework that the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) uses to assess safety and risk and the needs and strengths of children and families, is utilized throughout the life of a Child In Need of Care (CINC) case. Act 272 has incorporated the CWADM safety elements into the Louisiana Children's Code. Part One of this two-part CIP Café took a detailed look at definitions and safety assessments before the first CINC hearing. Part Two will focus on the ongoing safety assessment in a Child In Need of Care case and how DCFS determines when it is safe to reunify children and parents. Presenters will discuss conditions for return home and conditions for closure. A parent attorney will talk about how to use the CWADM elements to advocate for clients.



Pending Approval for 1 hour CLE/CEU.

For more info contact Team Dynamics at 985-624-3514

Objectives

- Learn how the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) assesses safety throughout the life of the Child In Need of Care case when children have been removed from their parents.
- Appreciate how DCFS determines when it is safe to reunify children and parents and conditions for return home and conditions for closure.
- Understand how to advocate for return home utilizing the safety assessment.

AGENDA & SCHEDULE

30 Minutes	The ongoing safety assessment in a Child In Need of Care case; how DCFS determines when it is safe to reunify children and parents, conditions for return home, and conditions for closure
20 Minutes	How to advocate for return utilizing the safety assessment
10 Minutes	Questions and Discussion



SPEAKERS



Sholanda R. Ellis, MSW, RSW | Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) Foster Care Consultant

Sholanda R. Ellis is a Foster Care Consultant with the State Office Foster Care Unit with the Department of Child and Family Services of Louisiana. She has a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Social Work. Sholanda began as a specialist in the foster care unit, and has worked as an adoption specialist, and foster care/family service supervisor in Ouachita and Morehouse Parishes.



Sherry Powell, JD | Deputy General Counsel - Child Welfare, La DCFS, Bureau of General Counsel

Sherry Ann Powell is a 1990 graduate of LSU with a B.S. in Business Administration and a 1993 Magna Cum Laude graduate of Southern University Law Center. Ms. Powell began her legal career in private practice in the fields of family and juvenile law. In 1997, she joined DCFS as a Regional attorney and was promoted to Attorney Supervisor for the DCFS, Office of Child Welfare. She supervised Regional Attorneys in the Covington and East Baton Rouge Regions and Ascension Parish. In October of 2022, she was promoted to Deputy General Counsel for Child Welfare and in that position supervises Attorney Supervisors throughout the State. She has conducted training DCFS, Capitol Area CASA, Louisiana State Bar Association, and mandatory reporting training for various community partners. She is a trainer for CINC Trial Skills in the American Bar Association developed course Louisiana attorneys. As Deputy General Counsel she serves as a Commissioner for the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf and a Commissioner for the Louisiana Child Representation Commission.



Kasey Pharis, MA, JD | Parent Attorney

Kasey Pharis has a general private practice and contracts with the Public Defenders' Office in the 15th Judicial District to represent juvenile delinquents and to represent parents when the State interferes with their custody. She has been defending parents and helping parents reunify with their children in Child in Need of Care cases since 2016. Kasey did not become an attorney until she was in her mid-thirties. Prior to that, Kasey taught English at UL Lafayette and at Grambling; then she was an oil and gas abstractor. She decided to pursue her JD with the intent of specializing in transactional law, for a practical salary, and a daily life with minimal emotional complications, but she grossly overestimated her ability to live a sensible life. Two years into her practice, she began representing parents in CINC proceedings and became a stakeholder in the child welfare system. It is hard work: it can be soul crushing at times and indescribably rewarding at others. Kasey believes that every child has a fundamental right to grow up with their own messed up family.

