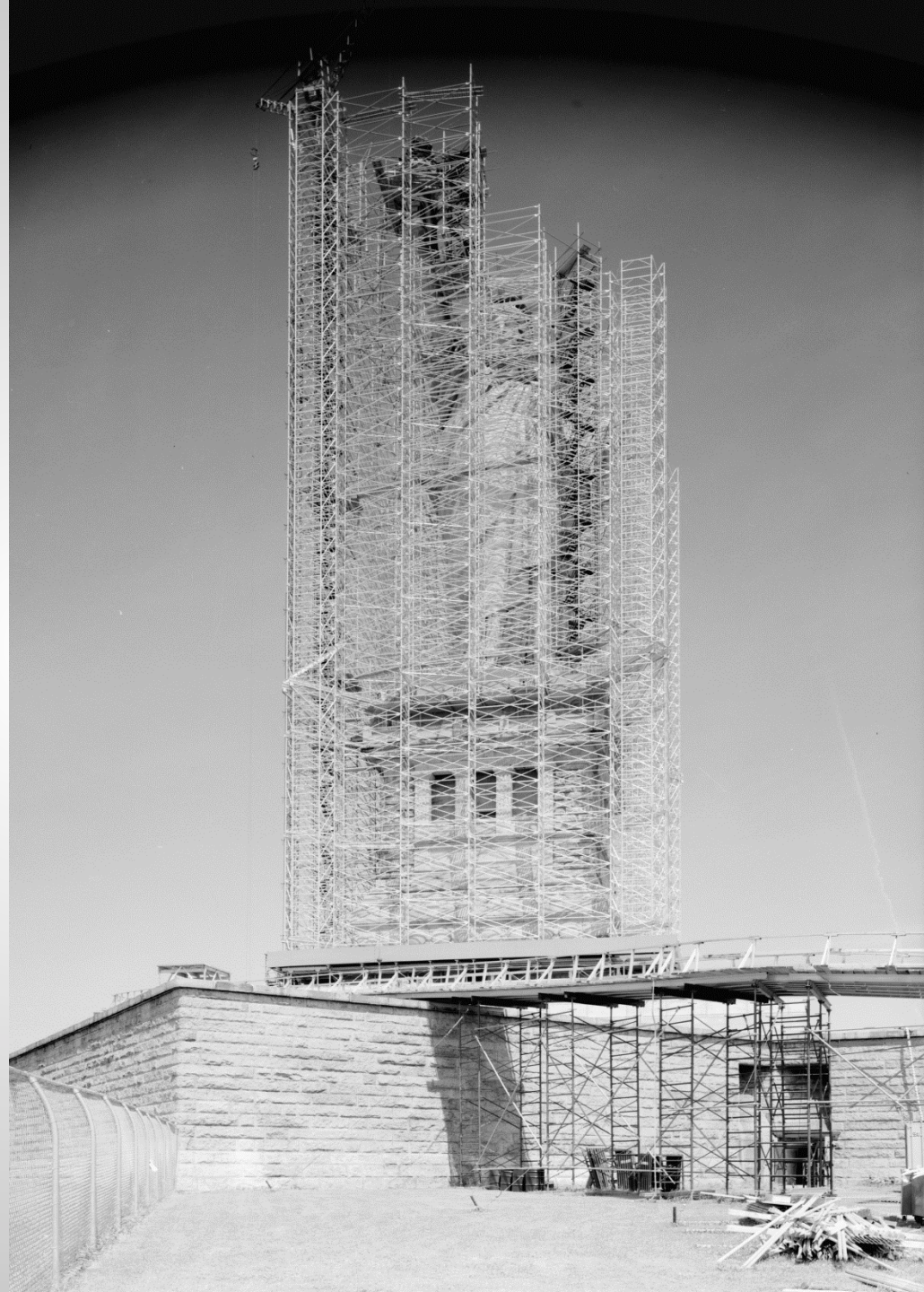


Child
Safety Framework

A
Structure for
Decision-
Making
In
Dependency
Court



Assessing Safety

- 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

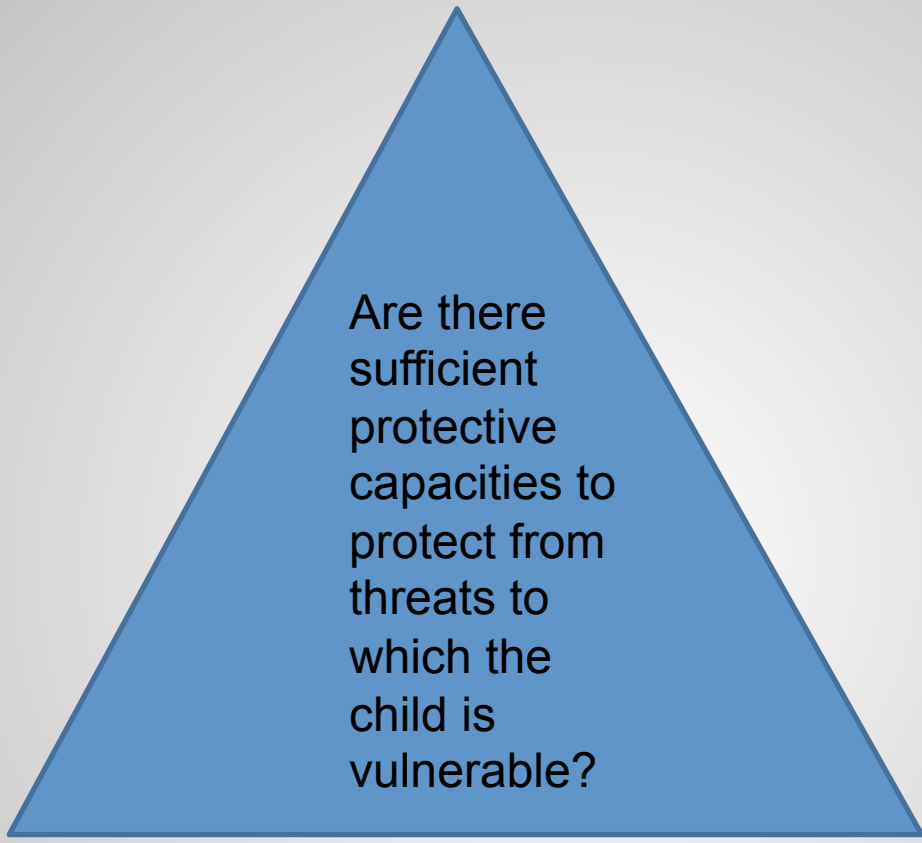
- Based on Safety Assessment
- Eliminates Threats or Enhances Protective Capacity

Progress, Reunification, Dismissal

- Judged against Safety Assessment
- Reunification \neq Dismissal



Threats



Are there sufficient protective capacities to protect from threats to which the child is vulnerable?

Vulnerabilities

Protective Capacities

RCW 13.34.065: Shelter care—Hearing—Recommendation as to further need—Release.

WA Children's Admin Practice and Procedure Manual: 1120 Safety Assessments

Threats

- **Specific and Observable**
- **Out of Control**
- **Immediate or Liable to Happen Soon**
- **Severe Consequences**



Vulnerabilities

- Child Specific
- Vulnerable or Not, Not Judged in Degrees
- If Threat Exists, Presume Vulnerability



Protective Capacity

- Cognitive
- Behavioral
- Emotional



Safety Planning

- Does not require change in parents behavior or attitude
- Controls threats – immediately
- Kind and amount of parent-child contact.

-
- Sufficient
 - Feasible
 - Sustainable

-
- Assessing Reasonable Efforts
 - Actions or Services to Control or Manage Threats
 - Behavior/Circumstance-Based Language



Case Planning



- **Use Safety Framework to design case plan**
- **Looking toward the Court and Dept exiting Family**
- **Usually requires changing in parental behavior**

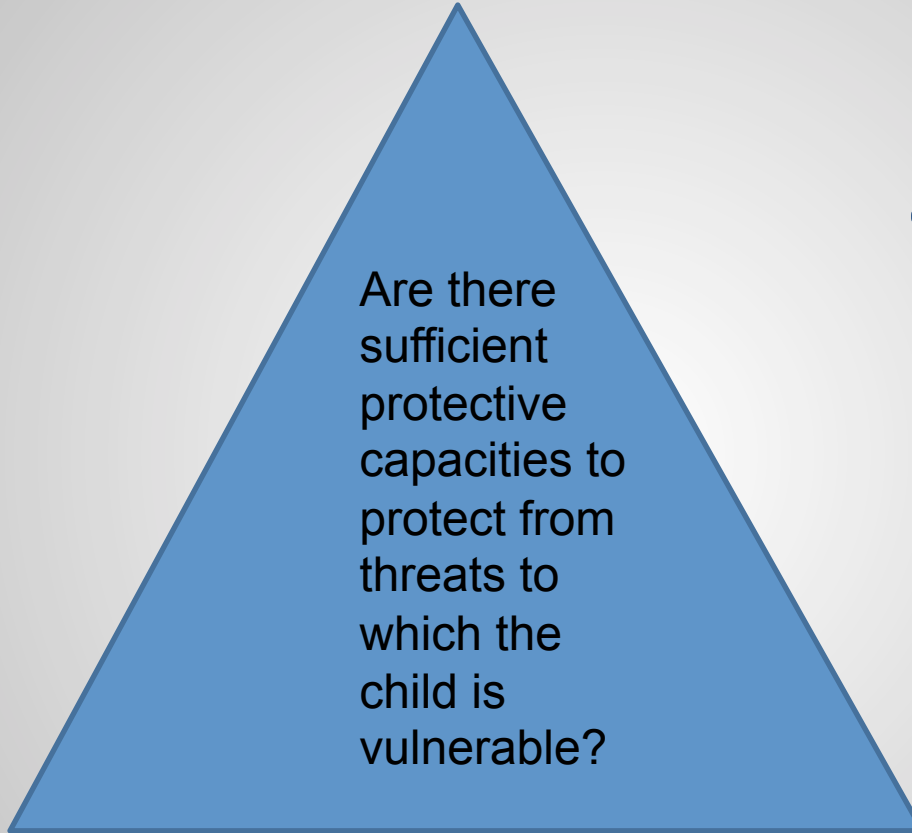
Visitation Plans

- **Assess - Learn - Practice - Demonstrate**
-

- **Quick to Start**
- **Include Siblings**
- **Alternative Contact**
- **Written Plan – Court Order**
- **Right of Family – Not Carrot-and-Stick**
- **Explain Supervision**
 - **How will it progress?**



Threats



**Level of
Supervision
Exercise**

Vulnerabilities

**Protective
Capacities**

CHILDREN: 6 year old girl, 10 year old girl and 12 year old boy

REASONS FOR PLACEMENT:

- Parents failed to provide adequate supervision.
- Children engaged in sexual behaviors. Mother and father knew, did not take steps to interrupt behaviors.

PARENTS:

- Mother and father employed.
- DV screen indicated need for specialized DV assessment of father.
- Father drinking alcohol daily - unknown to what extent this is affecting his behaviors toward children and mother.

VISITS: At Shelter Care - first visit needs to be set up

CHILD: 8 month old girl, in foster care for 4 months

REASONS FOR PLACEMENT:

- Mother experienced significant depression after birth. She was unable to take depression medication during pregnancy and didn't restart after child was born.
- Child was not gaining sufficient weight.
- Home was unsanitary.

PARENTS:

- Single mother, father unknown
- Mother resumed depression medication, addressed house issues, is on time for visits, maintaining cleanliness of home.

VISITS:

- Visits currently supervised, 2 hours, 3 times a week. Visit reports note no concerns.

CHILDREN: Sisters ages 3 and 6, in foster care for 6 months

REASONS FOR PLACEMENT:

- Single father abusing drugs, lost his job and facing eviction.
- 6 year old not attending school regularly.

PARENTS:

- Father engaged in treatment and clean for 3 months. Working part-time and on wait list for housing.
- Mother has not been located.

VISITS:

- Visits are supervised, 2 hours, 2 times a week at the library. Visit reports note no concerns.
- Foster parents report 3 year old sometimes throws tantrums after visits.

CHILDREN: 9 and 12 year old brothers – in relative care together for 9 months

REASONS FOR PLACEMENT:

- Parents failed to provide adequate supervision.
- Mother and both fathers abusing drugs.

PARENTS:

- Father of 12 year old has graduated from inpatient treatment and almost completed relapse prevention.
- Mother and father of 9 year old in a relationship, both still using drugs.

VISITS:

- Father of 12 year old has attended all supervised visits, 2 hours twice a week, with good reports. Child is doing well and likes seeing his father.
- Mother and father of 9 year old visit infrequently and their supervised visits have been terminated and restarted several times.
- Mother can have supervised visits with both boys once per week, for 2 hours.
- Father of 9 year old can have supervised visits once per week, for 2 hours.

CHILD: 14 year old girl, dependent for 2 years

PLACEMENT AND OTHER ISSUES:

- Placement due to parents' substance abuse, unsafe/unsanitary living conditions, and parents allowed unsafe adults to care for her.
- Youth later disclosed being sexually abused by another adult while in her parents' care.
- Youth has run away from foster homes for short periods of time. She struggles in school, struggles with following rules of foster home and has been placed in three different homes.

PARENTS:

- Mother incarcerated 2 hours away, to be released in 6 months.
- Father compliant with services but still appears to be abusing substances.

VISITS:

- Mother has supervised Skype visits for 1 hour, once a month.
- Father has a 2 hour, weekly supervised visit, but misses two out of four visits.
- Youth wants more contact with both parents.