The Impossible Imperative: Navigating the competing principles of child protection

Jill Duerr Berrick
the impossible imperative

Navigating the Competing Principles of Child Protection

Jill Duerr Berrick
Decision making themes in typical cases
Decision making themes in typical cases

Based on principles that are
1. Several
2. Not absolute
3. In conflict with each other
Young Victims of the Opioid Epidemic

BY THE EDITORIAL BOARD  |  MAY 16, 2017

Narcotic-affected newborns nearly double in California, but ‘it’s not the mom you expect’

By Bryana Brox

Their cries are piercing. Their disease is visible. For babies born to mothers using narcotics—even local prescriptions—these first weeks of life can mean a withdrawal withdrawal off drugs.

For babies born to mothers using narcotics, the first weeks of life can mean a withdrawal from drugs.

In California, the number of babies born affected by drugs has nearly doubled over seven years to more than 3,600 in 2015, according to state public health officials.

Plumas National Forest

Lassen National Forest

Southern Bluff

Chester

Westwood

Belden

Quincy

Portola

Graeagle

Paradise

Chester

Westwood

Belden

Quincy

Portola

Graeagle

Paradise

Sun Valley

Fernley

Reno

Sparks

Tahoe National Forest

Map data ©2017 Google
Child Welfare Principle
Parents who care for their children safely should be free from government intrusion in their family.
Child Welfare Principle
Parents and children (of a certain age and maturity) should have a say in the decisions that affect their lives.
Section 3: Scoring and Overrides

Scored Risk Level

Neglect Risk Level: Moderate
Abuse Risk Level: Moderate
Scored Risk Level: Moderate

Overrides

CPS Warning Signs

the box provided.
Child Welfare Principle
Children should be safe
CHILD WELFARE SERVICE SAFETY PLANS CAN BE GOOD, DECEPTIVE, OR DEADLY
Child Welfare Principle
Children should be raised with their family of origin.
The Child Abuse Case That Shocked NYC

Child protection: serious case reviews feed the blame culture

Former DCYF social worker says blame is misplaced
“Our mission is to save every child. Unlike pretty much any other area in government—we do not set a standard for perfection in policing or so many other areas—in this case (child welfare) we do set a standard of perfection.”
Child Welfare Principle
Safety
Freedom From Gov’t

Safety

Voice

Family
1. Parents who care for their children safely should be free from government intrusion in their family.
2. Children should be safe.
3. Children should be raised with their family of origin.
4. When children cannot live with family, they should live with extended relatives.
5. Children should be raised in families.
6. Children should have a sense of permanence.
7. Families’ cultural heritage should be respected.
8. Parents and children (of a certain age & maturity) should have a say in the decisions that affect their lives.
California CW laws that are principle-based

• Diligent efforts to place siblings together in the same setting (AB 743, 2010).
And data based

Percent of children with siblings placed with all of their siblings (2010)
Family

Permanence
Family

Permanence
California CW laws that are principle-based

- Continuum of Care Reform (AB 403, 2015)
And data based... sort of

What problem are we trying to solve?
Family placements  Voice
Children cared for safely. Free from gov’t

Children should be safe

Children should be Raised with family of origin

Children should live With extended relatives

Children should be Raised in families

Children should have a Sense of permanence

Families’ cultural Heritage should be respected

Parents & children Should have a say
References & Images

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