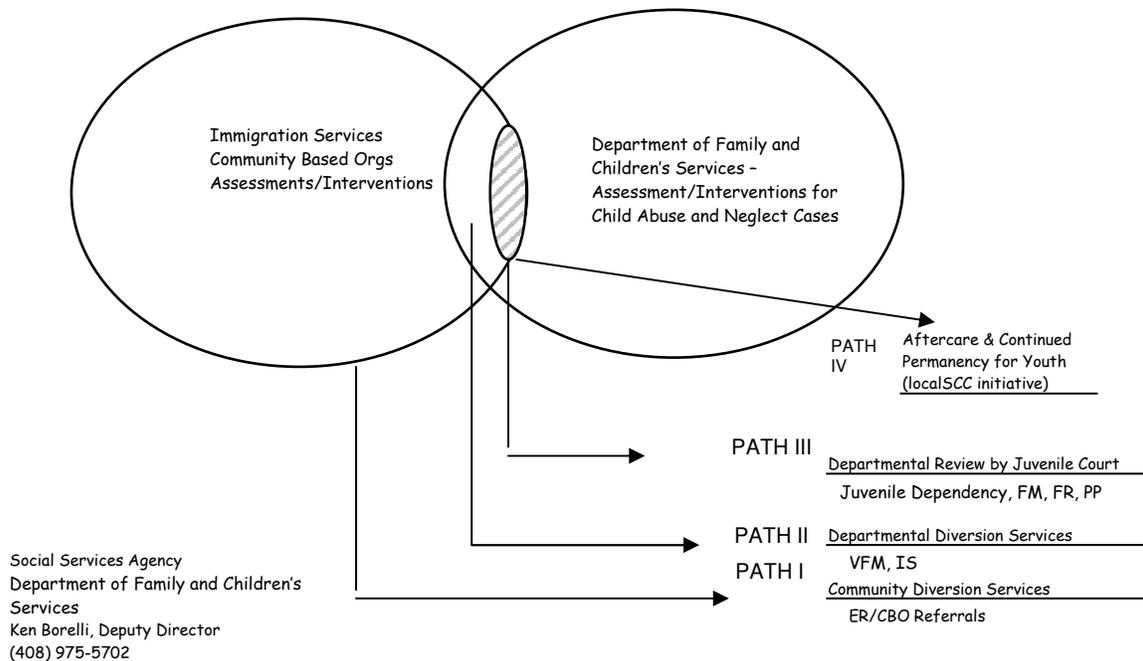


**IMMIGRATION GUIDELINES FOR CHILD WELFARE STAFF WORKSHOP**  
**PREPARED FOR 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CALIFORNIA FAMILIES TO FAMILIES**  
**CONFERENCE**  
**JANUARY 9 -11, 2006, LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA**

Every immigrant has a unique story. Many of these tales include overcoming Tremendous obstacles in order to establish themselves in the United States. Once finally here, interaction with the public child welfare system, and “the authorities”, will create a high level of anxiety, especially if it is perceived that it will jeopardize a tenuous stay in the United States. To provide relevant child welfare services, to immigrate families you need to be aware of this reality.

**Department of Family and Children's Services**  
**Immigration Assessment/Child Welfare Cross-over Services Matrix**  
 (Towards Addressing The Needs of Immigrant Families Impacted by Child Maltreatment and Family Violence)



## Part I “Family Immigration Assessment and the Role of T.D.M.”

I. Critical prerequisite: Trust building: In order to do a relevant assessment and service plan need to get the actual immigration facts.

II. T.D.M. Protocols regarding confidentiality, timelines and consultations.

III. Accuracy and familiarity and terms “Citizenship”, “Legal Alien Status”, “Greencard”, “Deportation”, “Public charge”, “Asylum”, ect.

IV. Key immigration issues which impact family dynamics:

- Who in the family is/are United States born?
- Who are Naturalized U.S. Citizens/America Nationals?
- Who are Legal Permanent Residents?
- Who are Legal Temporary Residents?
- Who are undocumented?
- Who are the identified extended families (here and abroad) and their legal resident states?

V. Where are families in the immigration process?

- Never started the process
- Application pending
- Status denied
- Appeals lost

A. Who is the petitioner or sponsor?

B. Citizenship application, relief clauses pending.

C. Who is assisting the family with their immigration matters?  
Agencies, Attorneys , “Notary”, Family, Social Workers

IV. When is it appropriate to act: Family system response vs. individual relief

- Domestic violence relief – VAWA/U VISAS
- Permanency for a child – Special Immigration Juvenile Status
- Assessment needs to be made, consequences for parents
- Family system

## **PART II Differential Responses Strategies For Immigrant Families In the Child Welfare System.**

(Each path builds upon the immigration resources develop or in previous process)

A) Path One: Community Diversion Services. Referrals to Community Based Immigrant Service Agencies.

- For what purpose?
- How will the immigration services impact the overall child welfare service plan?
- Current immigration status assessment.
- In the event the child welfare service plan needs augmentation, how will it be coordinated with the immigration services?
- Feedback loops into child welfare system, for safely reassessments.

B) Path Two: Child Welfare Departmental Diversion Services. The child welfare services are being handled at the Voluntary, or Informal Services level. (It assumes a willingness to work on the referring issues voluntarily)

- Immigration services may be referred out to community service agencies but more collaboration needed in coordinating both child welfare and immigration services.
- If voluntary services fail, and court intervention necessary, a further immigration assessment critical.
- T.D.M., may want to include Immigration services CBO. Begin the process of identifying key family supports both in the United States and abroad.

C) Path Three: Departmental review by Juvenile Court.

- At this point immigration services need judicial reviews and updates.
- Assessment of targeted immigration relief; Is it focused on the family or the individual.
- Is the foreign national's government involved in the decision making process?
- Status updates of relative support systems for the children, locally, nationally and internationally.
- Services to provide family maintenance, reunification, or permanency for the minor children.
- May need to apply for VAWA amendments, U Visas, and other immigration relief clauses.

D) Path Four: After Care and continued Permanency planning support for Youth. Immigration Services targeted to specific court dependent minors.

- Follow up tracking applications for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, U visa and other immigration relief clauses.

Path Four (continued):

- Impact of immigration status on guardianship, adoption, and or Independent living plans of emancipating minors.
- No minor if at all possible should emancipate without access to immigration relief. Cross over issues and collaboration with juvenile justice system. The resolution of an immigration matter is a major component of an emancipation staffing/TDM
- Continued support to families with immigration concerns. Immigration timelines can differ from Child Welfare timelines by years. What is set in motion in ER may take several years to resolve?

**PART III AGENCY INVENTORY:**

1) DOES YOUR AGENCY TRAININGS INCLUDE SENSITIVITY TO THE NEEDS OF IMMIGRANT FAMILIES, INCLUDING CONFIDENTIALITY ISSUES?

2) IS THERE SPECIFIC IMMIGRATION TRAINING, ESPECIALLY FOR RELIEF STRATEGIES SUCH AS VAWA, SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILE STATUS, U VISAS?

3) HOW ARE IMMIGRATION SERVICES GOING TO BE DELIVERED: CBO CONTRACTS, CONSULTANTS, SPECIALIZED UNITS, DEPARTMENTAL TASK FORCES LIAISONS?

4) WHAT SUPPORT DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE TO STAFF, SPECIAL HANDBOOKS, MEMOS AND PROTOCOLS(i.e. Best Practice Protocol with Mexican Consulate)?

5) INTEGRATION OF IMMIGRATION SERVICES INTO OVERALL CHILD WELFARE SERVICE DELIVER SYSTEM. GUIDELINES FOR TDM'S. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DUEL STATUS YOUTH, ILP PLANS, RELATIVE SEARCHES, SIP/PIP STRATEGIES, DISPORPORTIONALITY ISSUES?

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