



Introduction
to the

Safety
Guide

**SAFE
STRONG
SUPPORTIVE**

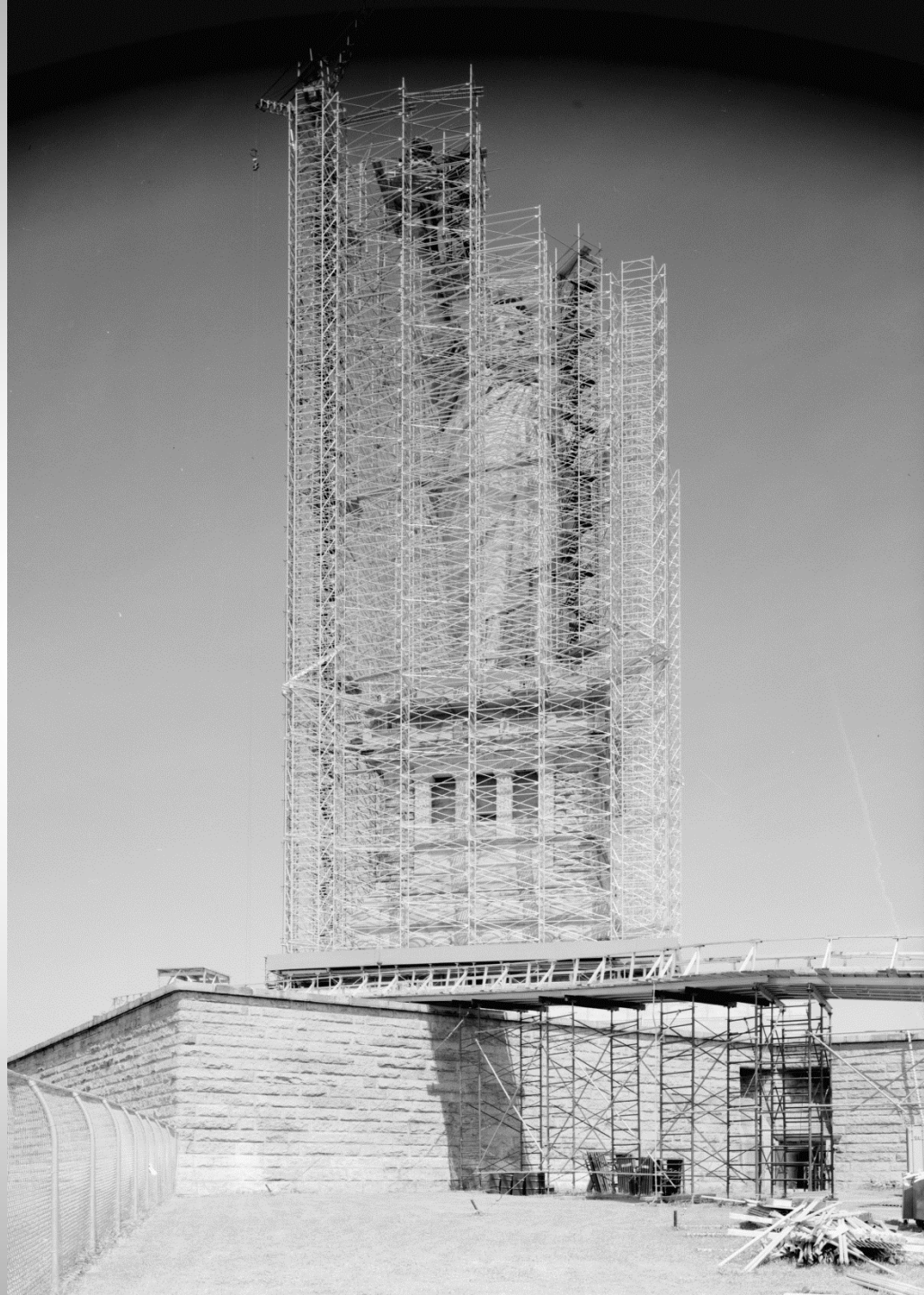
casey family programs

Child Safety: A Guide for Judges and Attorneys: www.americanbar.org

safe children | strong families | supportive communities

Child Safety Framework

**A
Structure for
Decision-
Making
In
Dependency
Court**



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



The Judge Expects Information

6 Core Questions



1. What is the nature and extent of the maltreatment?
2. What circumstances accompany the maltreatment?
3. How does the child function day-to-day?
4. How does the parent discipline the child?
5. What are overall parenting practices?
6. How does the parent manage his/her own life?

Threats

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

Vulnerabilities

Protective Capacities

[§ 8-824. Preliminary protective hearing; probable cause; appointment of counsel](#)

[§ 8-825. Court determinations in preliminary protective hearing](#)

[AZ DCS Practice and Procedure Manual Ch. 2: Sect. 7 Safety Planning](#)

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



Threat or No Threat?

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



When sufficient information collected:
Decide if threats of danger exist



No threats exist: if
protective action
was taken terminate
it; **Child is SAFE**



Threats exist:
decide if child
is vulnerable
to threats



Child is not vulnera-
ble to threats:
Child is SAFE



Child is vulnerable
to threats: Decide if
sufficient protective
capacities to man-
age threats exist



Insufficient protec-
tive capacities exist
to manage threats:
Child is UNSAFE



Sufficient protective
capacities exist to
manage threats:
Child is SAFE

The Judge Expects Information

6 Core Questions



1. What is the nature and extent of the maltreatment?
2. What circumstances accompany the maltreatment?
3. How does the child function day-to-day?
4. How does the parent discipline the child?
5. What are overall parenting practices?
6. How does the parent manage his/her own life?

Safety Planning

- Does not require change in parents behavior or attitude
 - Controls threats – immediately
-

- Sufficient
 - Feasible
 - Sustainable
-

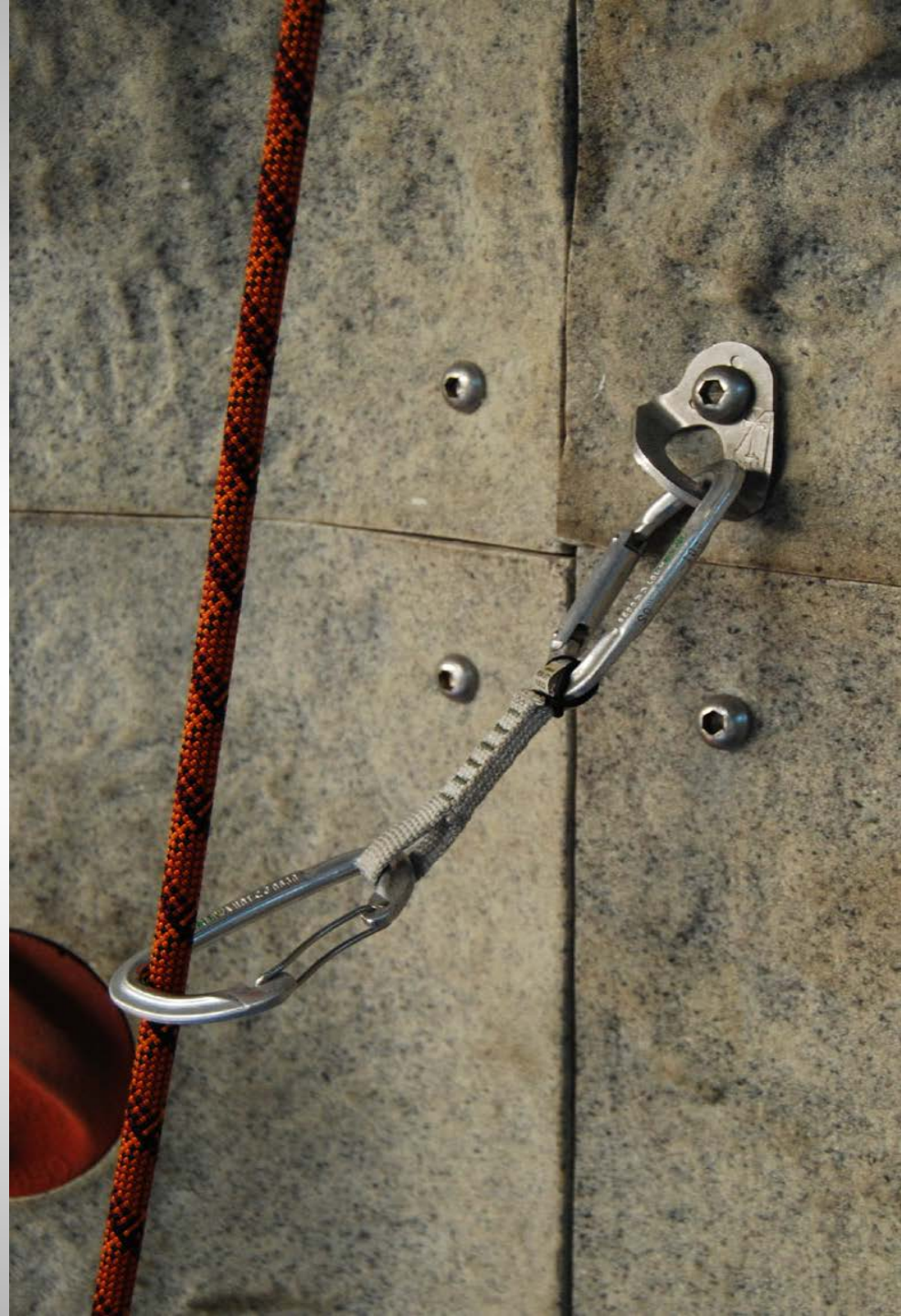
- Assessing Reasonable Efforts
 - Actions or Services to Control or Manage Threats




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.**



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?**



Evaluating Success

Why Can't Children Go Home Today?

- Reduction of Threats? Emergence of New Threats?
- Status of Protective Capacity?
- Current Information for Answers?
- Why Disputes? Challenge Parties to Resolve.
- If no progress, why?
 - Demand Information/Perspective of Parents



Reunification

- Have conditions changed enough to support an In-Home Safety Plan?
Sustainable:
 - Can the plan be put into place?
and can it work until it is no longer needed?
- Observe visits
 - Can unsupervised visits be happening now?
 - Are any of the visits structured to provide information about the child-parent relationship
- Parent Attitudes re: Threats and Protective Factors
- Info from Treatment Providers



Reunification

- Are We Preparing the Care Provider to Support Reunification?
- Is the Recommendation of Social Worker Independent and Supported .
- Reunification is a Plan, not an event.



Terminating Jurisdiction

- Threats Eliminated
- Protective Capacity Enhanced to Control Threats
- Combination of Both





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