



SUPPORTING A SURVIVOR WORKING WITH CPS

- » Navigating the CPS system can be complex and overwhelming. TCFV launched a page for [advocates](#) and a page for [survivors](#) on our website to provide resources, tools and information for working with CPS. Contact TCFV for specific CPS technical assistance at 512-794-1133.
- » The [Survivors' Rights Palm Card](#) lists rights and responsibilities when working with CPS. Review this palm card with the survivor and offer support to a survivor as they navigate the CPS system. The palm card can be downloaded in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

CONSIDERATIONS FOR CLOSED CPS CASES

- » Within the bounds of your confidentiality requirements, work with your program's CPS liaison to address questions/concerns, staff cases, and understand CPS laws, rules, and policies. Refer to the [Memorandum of Understanding](#) (MOU) to guide communication with CPS staff.
- » Always safety plan with a survivor who has CPS involvement. Consider the risks and benefits with the survivor around following the steps of the CPS safety or service plan and, after obtaining a release, discuss any concerns with the assigned investigator.
- » Help a survivor articulate the protective actions they have taken to enhance the safety of their children.
- » A survivor should enter into conversations with program staff fully aware of the mandatory reporting requirement for [abuse and neglect](#). It's crucial that staff be thorough in their explanation of what is considered abuse and neglect, when staff is required to report, and how program staff will support the survivor during the reporting process. Refer to [Texas Family Code 261.101](#) to guide the development of best practices around mandatory reporting and/or contact the Policy Team at TCFV.

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- » If a survivor is found to be the perpetrator in a CPS case, they have 45 days after receiving the DFPS "Notice to Designated Perpetrator" letter to request, in writing, an Administrative Review of Investigative Finding (ARIF) hearing ([DFPS Rules, 40 Texas Administrative Code §700.505](#)). If you have not assisted a survivor with an ARIF before, contact TCFV or a trusted advocate/attorney who has experience with this process.
 - » Individuals are entitled to removal of role information when the investigation is ruled out. DFPS shall mail notice explaining the procedure that must be followed ([DFPS Rules, 40 Texas Administrative Code §707.517](#)).
 - » Discuss ongoing safety plans for a survivor and their children following a CPS case and steps to take to prevent future involvement with the Department.