

# Child Welfare Priority Access to Services and Supports (PASS)



## *A Resource Document for Probation Officers*

Priority Access to Services and Support (PASS), is a joint initiative between multiple state and county agencies and the California Child Welfare Council. The Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) has been selected to co-lead, alongside the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), an effort to identify and develop strategies within the state and local criminal justice system to assist with *PASS* efforts to prioritize services for children in the state foster care system.

This document contains general information on the *PASS* initiative and key steps probation officers can take to link probationers and individuals on Post Release Community Supervision (PRCS) to *PASS* priority services in an effort to fulfill child reunification court orders.

- CPOC's commitment to the *PASS* initiative includes increased awareness of probation officers regarding probationers and offenders on PRCS who have child reunification court orders, and to ensure priority access is given through linkage to *PASS* service partners in the community.

### **What is the Child Welfare Family Reunification Plan?**

The family reunification plan is a component of Child Welfare Services that focuses on children who have been removed by court order and placed in foster care. The reunification plan consists of services made available to the parents, which include but are not limited to: *counseling, emergency shelter care, substance abuse treatment, employment/job readiness, domestic violence intervention, parental education and household management.*

If the parent does not complete the reunification plan within the time frame designated by the Juvenile Dependency Court, the court will determine permanent placement for the children. Linking probationers and offenders on PRCS with the services and support they need is time sensitive. This can strengthen their commitment to stay on the right track.

### **The benefits of PASS...**

*PASS* aims to ensure timely access to targeted services and support for families who have had a child removed and placed in foster care. The ultimate goal of priority access services is to increase family reunification for probationers and offenders on PRCS and their children.

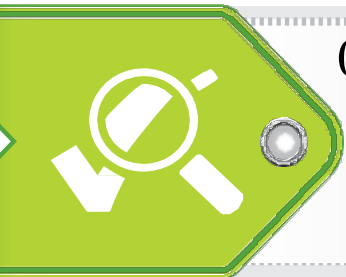
Turn the page to see the key steps probation officers can take to implement *PASS*.



# Child Welfare Priority Access to Services and Supports (PASS):

## STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE FOR PROBATION OFFICERS

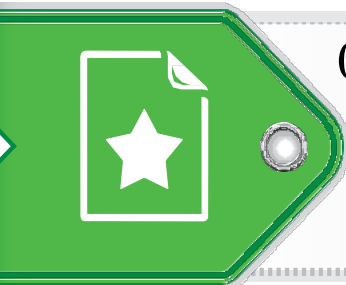
During pre-sentencing or assessment, as well as any other face to face contact with a probationer, probation officers can take into account court ordered documents from the Juvenile Dependency Court. *The steps below can serve as a guide to assist probationers that have Juvenile Dependency Court ordered documents and/or children in foster care or in the process of being placed into foster care.*



### 01 IDENTIFY IF PROBATIONER HAS COURT ORDERED DOCUMENTS IN FILE

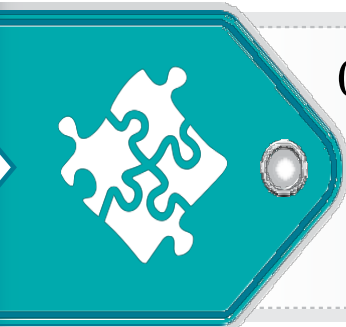
- Review probationer case file for court-ordered 'active' reunification plan, usually located within the court order documents from the Juvenile Dependency Court.
- Active reunification plans are time sensitive and must be completed by the dates specified on the court ordered documents.

*\*Tip: The reunification plan may also be identified as 'dependency court report/case plan'.*



### 02 ASK PROBATIONER ABOUT COURT ORDER DOCUMENTS IF NOT IN FILE

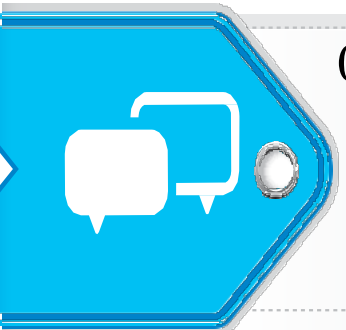
- Ask probationer if he/she has a copy of the court orders from the Juvenile Dependency Court; these documents do not always make it into the probationer case file.
- If a probationer has a court-ordered reunification plan, he/she is aware of plan and may be able to provide the agent details if the question is asked of them.



### 03 COLLABORATE WITH PROBATIONER & CHILD-WELFARE SOCIAL WORKER

- Obtain name and contact information of child welfare social worker from court ordered documents and/or probationer.
- Contact social worker and discuss: reunification plan details, services needed by probationer, available providers and preparation needed to access priority services.

*\*Tip: Meetings facilitated by the probation officer should always include probationer.*



### 04 PROVIDE PROBATIONER CONTINUOUS SUPPORT FOR PASS

- Collaborate with the probationer to create a goals and progress report which includes the completion of conditions in accordance with the Juvenile Dependency Court order.
- Collaborate with the county child welfare worker, service providers, and the probationer to adjust services as needed during the duration of the reunification plan.

If you have reason to believe a probationer has an open child welfare case, offer to facilitate contact with the designated child welfare agency to verify whether or not his or her child is a dependent of the Juvenile Dependency Court.

