

Child Welfare Realignment Principles

1. The focus of discussions about the structure of the California child welfare system should be on keeping children safe from harm and providing children who must be removed from home with the support and services they need to become healthy and productive adults, not who gets the money or which political division administers the programs.
2. The California Department of Social Services retains the responsibility, as the single state agency, to ensure that California is in compliance with federal law and should retain the responsibility for establishing, monitoring, and enforcing basic standards.
3. Flexibility sought from the federal government or provided to the counties must not dilute protections for children or the ability of children to enforce their rights.
4. Child Welfare Services should be fully funded, and funding decisions must not decrease support for children in foster care or permanent arrangements such as adoption and guardianship.