



DCFS Social Workers have the title of “Children’s Social Worker” (CSW). They have different levels (ex: Children’s Social Worker Trainee, Children’s Social Worker II) based on their level of experience, such as length of time at DCFS and/or education level. A Supervising Children’s Social Worker (SCSW) is the designation for the CSW’s Supervisor.

Adoption and Permanency Resources Division (ARPD) Worker: Also known as the “Adoptions Worker.” Typically assigned at the time when adoption has been identified as the permanent plan. Adoptions workers help monitor the potential adoptive placement, complete adoptive paperwork and assist in finalizing the adoption. Adoptions workers will monitor adoptive placements post-adoption. They will provide input into reports written by the Continuing Services worker or Dependency Investigator.

Accelerated Placement Team (APT) Worker: These workers are requested on cases where there is an urgent need for placement, such as a young person is in a shelter/transitional shelter or homeless. They provide additional support to the CS or ER workers in finding placement.

CFT Facilitators: CFT Facilitators help coordinate and facilitate Child and Family Team Meetings. This role may be held by a designated facilitator or by the SCSW on your case, depending on the DCFS office.

Child Care Program Representative: Located in each Regional Office, this worker assists caregivers in being connected with subsidized child care services. The referral is initiated with Continuing Services CSW and must be renewed every 6 months.

Continuing Services (CS) Worker: Also known as “Case-Carrying Worker”. CS workers are assigned on our around the disposition hearing. These social workers service the case on an ongoing basis until the case is closed. They visit the children on a monthly basis and assist the family in the case plan. CS workers write most reports following the Disposition hearing.

Court Officers: Court officers are DCFS social workers who provide support to court departments. Court officers are present in the courtroom to process incoming social worker reports for compliance to department policy and court orders. Court Officers also assist with contacting social workers when the judge and/or attorneys have questions on the case. They may also provide recommendations on services or case plans to court staff.

D-Rate Clinical Evaluators: These social workers assess the needs of children to determine if there is a need for the child to be placed in a specialized D-Rate or F-Rate home.

Dependency Investigator (DI): DI workers are assigned to the case following the detention hearing. They do an additional follow-up investigation to support the allegations of abuse and neglect (proposed petition). They will write the Jurisdictional/Disposition report based on this investigation. They are also involved at the .26 hearing when either adoption/legal guardianship is the proposed plan.

DPSS Linkages Workers: Support the CS worker to assess families for public benefits, like food stamps, Medi-Cal, etc. They may also support CS workers in determining problems with existing benefits. These workers are employed by Department of Social Services and co-located in DCFS offices.



DMH Specialized Foster Care (SFC) Staff: These liaisons are located in each regional office. They are employees of the Department of Mental Health and can assist social workers in assessing and connecting their clients to the appropriate mental health services.

Educational Consultants: Educational Consultants are professional educators under contract with DCFS. They are located in each Regional Office and provide guidance and advocacy to address the more challenging educational needs of youth under the Department's jurisdiction.

Eligibility Workers: An Eligibility Worker (EW) is responsible for independently determining the initial and continuing eligibility for children in out-of-home care programs, and following established guidelines and procedures. Eligibility Workers may help caregivers determine eligibility for one or more forms of public assistance, such as foster care rates, Adoption Assistance Program, Kin-GAP, CalWORKs and/or Medi-Cal.

Emergency Response (ER) Worker: ER workers receive the initial referral from the Child Abuse Hotline. ER workers are responsible for conducting the initial investigation of child abuse and making a determination of removing a child (or not) from a home and finding appropriate placement. ER workers write the Detention Report.

Human Services Aide (HSA): HSAs provide case-related support to social workers. Some of their duties might include monitoring visits, transporting children to visits, and researching services. HSA support may not be available at all DCFS offices.

ILP Coordinators: Youth between the ages of 16-20 are referred to ILP Services/Coordinators by their Continuing Services Worker. ILP Coordinators assist youth in connecting to relevant TAY services and supports. This is a voluntary service.

P3 (Permanency Partners Program) Workers: P3 workers research long-term and meaningful connections for youth. They are typically assigned to youth 12 and over who are in PPLA placements, but can assist at any time where there is a court order or if a sibling is receiving P3 services.

Placement and Recruitment Unit (PRU) Recruiter: PRU Recruiters are responsible for recruiting applicants to adopt unattached children who need an adoptive home. When an applicant applies to adopt a child, the PRU processes the request and matches the applicant with a child once the assessment of the applicant is approved

Public Health Nurses (PHN): PHNs coordinate health and mental health care services and medical treatment to children and youth under the supervision of DCFS. PHN activities include, but are not limited to, acquiring medical information directly from health care providers and reviewing documentation for the purpose of assisting in arranging follow-up care, as applicable; sharing information related to screenings, assessments, and laboratory test results necessary to monitor the administration of psychotropic medication; and, upon request, assist Nonminor Dependents (NMDs) in making informed decisions regarding his/her health care. PHNs may self-refer to cases or may be requested from the CSW.

Resource Family Approval Workers (RFA): RFA workers assess homes and work on the approval of foster homes and relative/NREFM homes for placement of the children.



Runaway Outreach Workers: ROU CSWs are focused on locating, placing and stabilizing youth through developing rapport and offering alternative service plans for runaway youth under the age of 18 who are dependents of the court. The ROU CSWs work collaboratively with the case-carrying CSW to provide more intensive case management interventions in locating and stabilizing youth.

Technical Assistants (TA): TAs are administrative staff within DCFS offices who have such responsibilities as finding placement, processing paperwork for birth/death certificates and social security numbers, and processing some payments like education reimbursements, clothing allowances and dual rates.

Other People Who Might Have a Social Worker Title or Role

CLC/LADL Investigators: The law firms that serve children (CLC) and parents (LADL) employ trained social workers, known as investigators, to visit and work with their clients. These social workers are employed by the law firms (not DCFS) and help provide information to the attorneys on the case.

Foster Family Agency (FFA) Workers: FFA's are not part of DCFS, but rather community-based agencies that certify and monitor licensed foster homes. Not all foster families are certified by FFAs. FFA workers are employed by a Foster Family Agency. They monitor and provide support services to foster families (and the children placed in the home) who are certified with their agency.

Mental Health Professionals: Mental health professionals may have a "social worker" title. These may be individuals with an LCSW (Licensed Clinical Social Worker), ACSW (Associate Clinical Social Workers), MSW (Master of Social Work), MFTs (Marriage and Family Therapist) and Licensed MFTs who practice therapy, case management and/or provide clinical assessments/treatment plans in community-based organizations, Regional Centers and hospitals.

Probation Officers: Some probation officers may have social work training, but their role is very different. Probation officers work with young people who are involved in the juvenile justice system to monitor and ensure they are completing the terms of their probation.

Attorneys

Children's Law Center: Children's Law Center (CLC) is a non-profit law firm that represents children in care. CLC is divided into four firms: CLC1, CLC2, CLC3, CLC4 and CLC5.

Los Angeles Dependency Lawyers: Los Angeles Dependency Lawyers (LADL) is a non-profit law firm that represents parents whose children are in care. LADL is divided into 5 firms: Law Offices of Amy Einstein, Law Offices of Rachel Ewing, Law Offices of Thomas Hayes, Law Offices of Jolene Metzger and Law Offices of Martin Lee.

County Counsel: County Counsel refers to the attorneys who represent the Department of Children and Family Services in dependency court. They also are located in DCFS offices to provide assistance to DCFS social workers in regards to case issues.



Education Attorney/317e Panel Attorney: Education attorneys can assist with complicated matters related to ensuring a child is receiving the most appropriate program and services for their educational needs. These attorneys can help resolve disputes with schools or school districts and work in collaboration with the Education Rights Holder and primary CLC attorney. These attorneys are referred by the primary attorney or hearing officer.

Mental Health Advocacy Team Attorneys: MHAT Attorney works in partnership with a psychologist to advise CLC attorneys on cases where there may be complicated mental health needs. The primary CLC attorney refers cases to this team.

Public Defenders: Public defenders represent young people in juvenile justice court. They work closely with the CLC attorney for young people who are “dually involved”.