Instructions for using:
C.A.S.E.
A Critical Thinking Process for Child Welfare Professionals

C.A.S.E. is a tool available to supervisors and administrators to help structure both conversation about and implementation of amended Child Protective Services Law in regard to a particular case, and to encourage workers to develop and apply critical thinking skills.

C.A.S.E. is a generally applicable resource that lends itself to working out the challenges and intricacies of implementing amended law. C.A.S.E. stands for Comprehension, Analysis, Synthesis, and Evaluation. Use C.A.S.E. to support the critical thinking process when discussing a case that may require close examination and changes in process or outcome when implementing to the new law.

COMPREHENSION:

- The worksheet provides a few prompting questions to guide this information gathering process.
- Encourage workers to gather and present everything they know about the case.
- Use C.A.S.E. to structure your questions, suggestions, and feedback particularly in reference the relevant law and policy.

ANALYSIS:

- Use the analysis box to pinpoint the specific questions you have about the case
- Use the questions listed, as well as your own, to analyze the information and flesh out the context.
- Note the effects of relevant changes to the law and process.

SYNTHESIS:

- The synthesis box in the worksheet provides a space to record your plan.
- Use the questions to brainstorm options and predict outcomes.
- Be clear about the next steps and crosswalk your plan carefully with new mandates.

EVALUATION

- Keeping this worksheet handy with supervision notes provides a reminder to evaluate the plans and explore the advantages and setbacks your team is experiencing with the implementation of the new CPSL.
- After implementing the plan, meet again to assess results:
    - What worked and what needs adjustment
    - What was unexpected?
    - Use the questions to correct course if necessary and to plan next steps.