

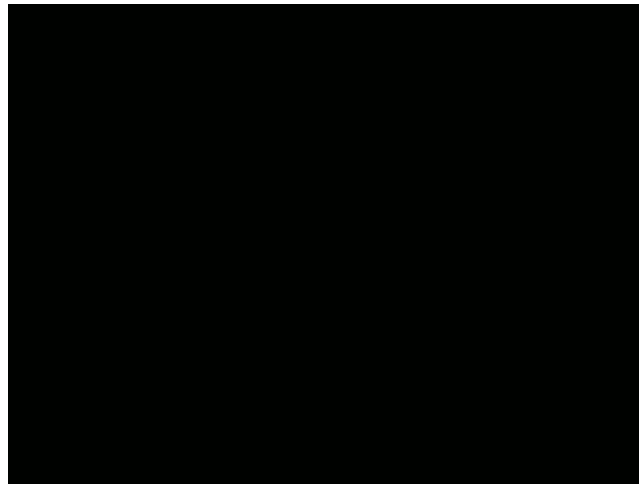
Welcome to FSS and CFS Linkages/Mutual Clients



Working Together to Fight Poverty and
Child Maltreatment

Linkages

Show 16 min version of “The Linkages Challenge” video available at www.CFPIC.org



Objectives

- Overview of Linkages
- Defining Mutual Clients and AB429
- Overview of CalWORKS and explore the roles of CalWORKS Staff
- Overview of Children and Family Services and explore the roles of the CFS Social Workers
- How to Communicate, Coordinate and Collaborate with one another while our mutual client family navigates both programs (A Family's Journey)

The Bottom Line

Linkages

Partnership between Children and Family Services (CFS) and CalWORKs

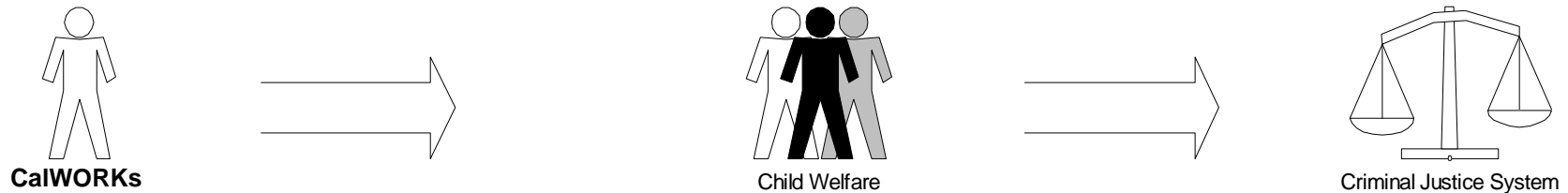
Mutual Client

A family involved in both CalWORKs and CFS



A continuation of CalWORKs services for the parent(s) who have had child(ren) removed from the home

LINKAGES Model



Vision: To eliminate poverty and child maltreatment by:

- Coordination of services
- CalWORKs as a Child Welfare prevention program
- Child Welfare as a poverty prevention program

Did You Know?

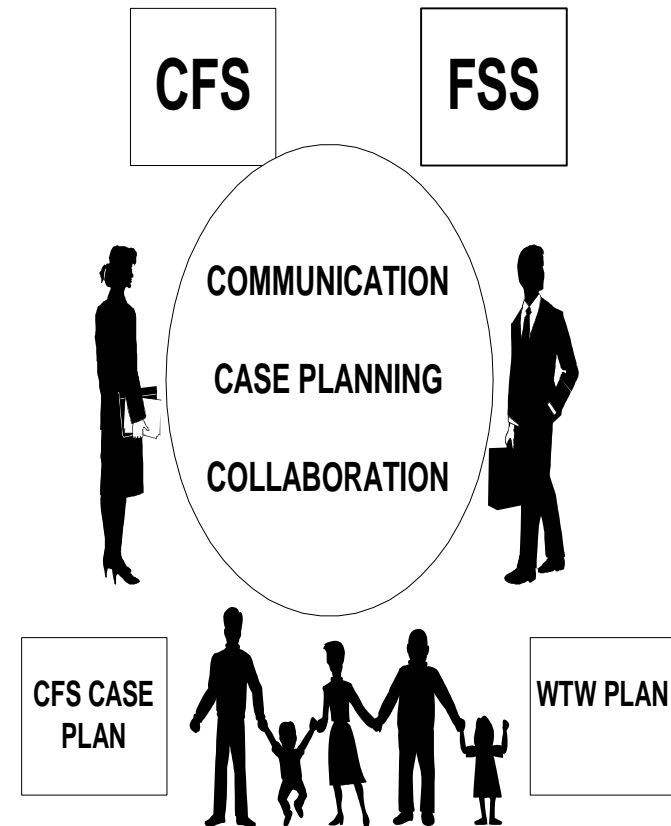
Department of Health and Human Services reports ***children from families with incomes below \$15,000 are 22 times more likely to experience maltreatment*** than those from families with incomes \$30,000 or higher.

22%-60% of CalWORKs applicants are at higher risk for child maltreatment

Children's Research Center 2006 (Prevention Services)

SSA Linkages Overview

- Mutual Clients Project
- CalWORKs/Child Welfare Partnership Project Grant
 - ❖ CalWORKs Structured Decision Making (SDM) Risk Assessment Tool
 - ❖ CFS CalWORKs Screening Tools



CalWORKs & CFS Linkage Collaboration

- Providing prevention services to CalWORKs families assessed as being at risk of entering the child welfare system
- Identifying CFS families eligible for CalWORKs
- Differential Response workers screen for potential CalWORKs eligibility and refer as appropriate to help family meet needs and keep family safe
- Coordinate services between CFS and FaCT Family Resource Centers (FRC)
- Providing CalWORKs supportive services to CFS Family Reunification families (AB429)
- Domestic Abuse Services Unit (DASU)



Assembly Bill 429

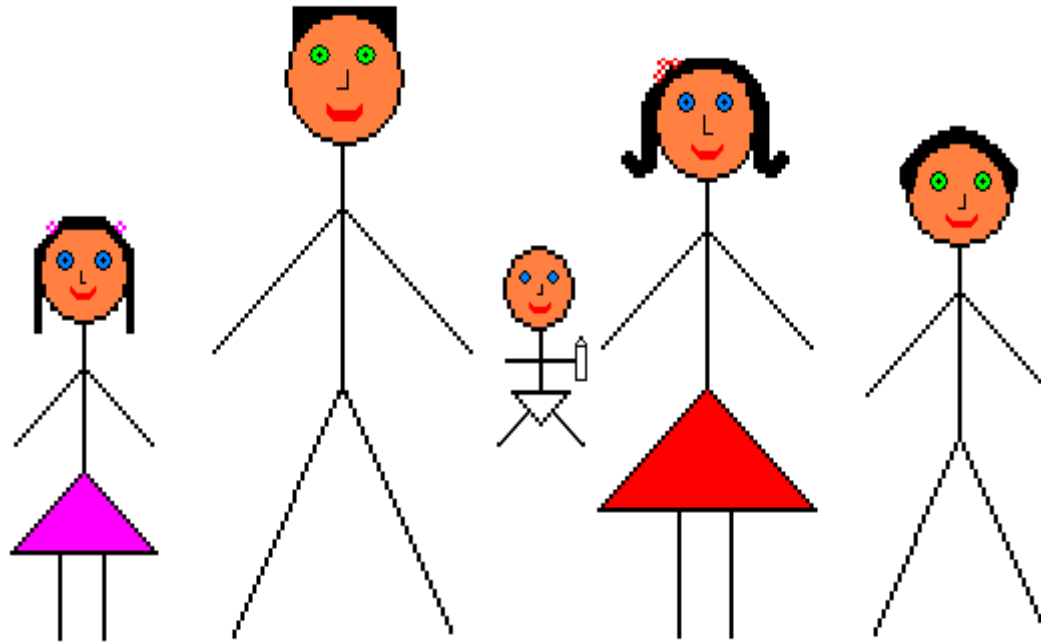
AB 429 extends CalWORKs services to Reunification Parents and Families involved with Child Welfare Services by expanding the definition of “temporary absence” up to 180 days for children who are removed from the home.

- Child(ren) are removed
- CalWORKs case closes due to the removal
- CalWORKs Services are requested to be kept open within 30 days of the removal
- Family Reunification (FR) is ordered
- CalWORKs Services are included in the Court ordered Case Plan

Key Messages

- There are CalWORKs services available for eligible CFS clients
- Communication between CFS and CalWORKs staff will enhance services to our mutual clients
- CFS and CalWORKs staff can share information without any breach of confidentiality
- Coordinated case plans help the client follow through

A Family's Story



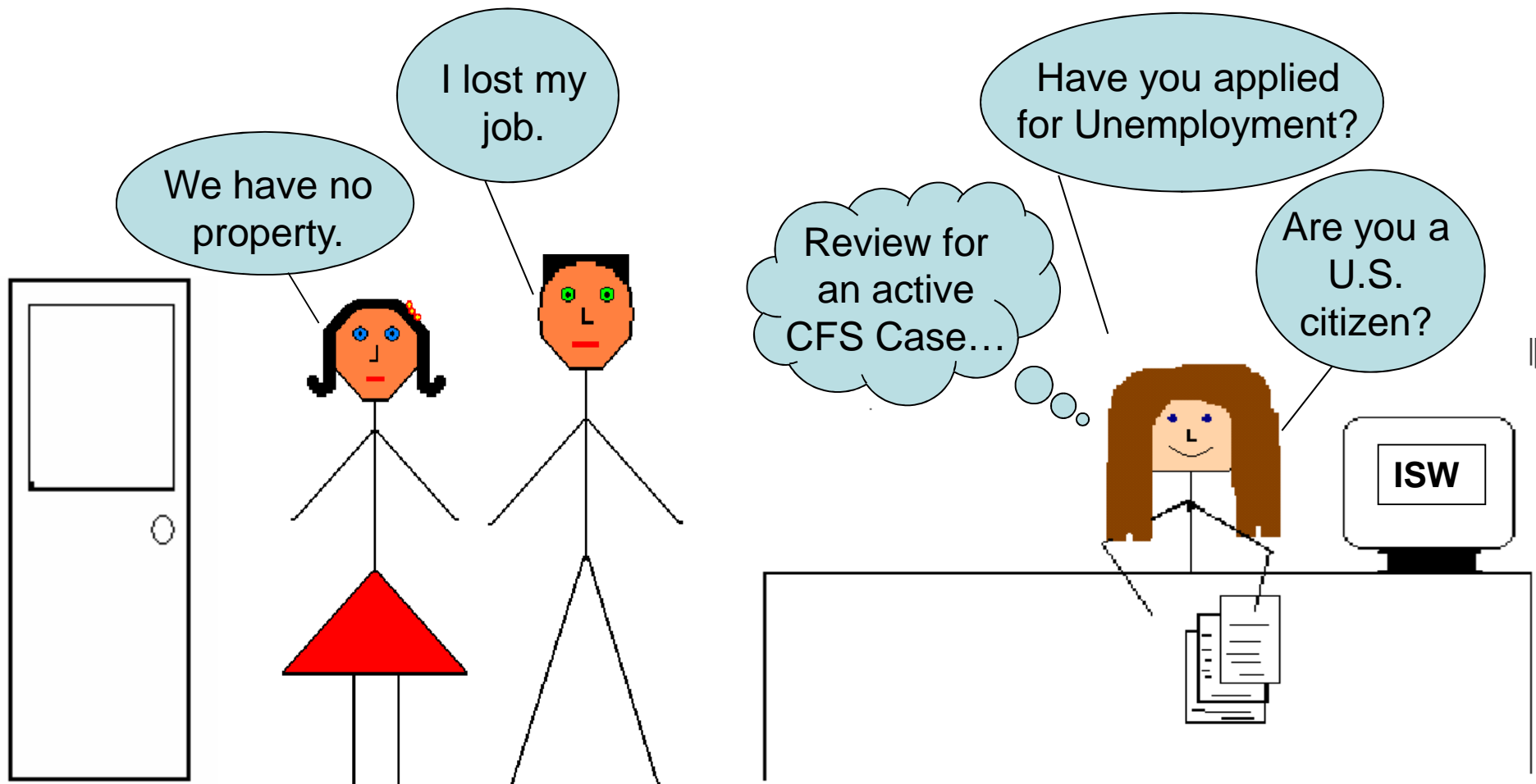
A Journey through CalWORKs and CFS
coordinated case planning

ACT I

The Family Applies For CalWORKs

CalWORKs Application

The Family is having trouble making ends meet and decides to apply for CalWORKs in their local SSA office.



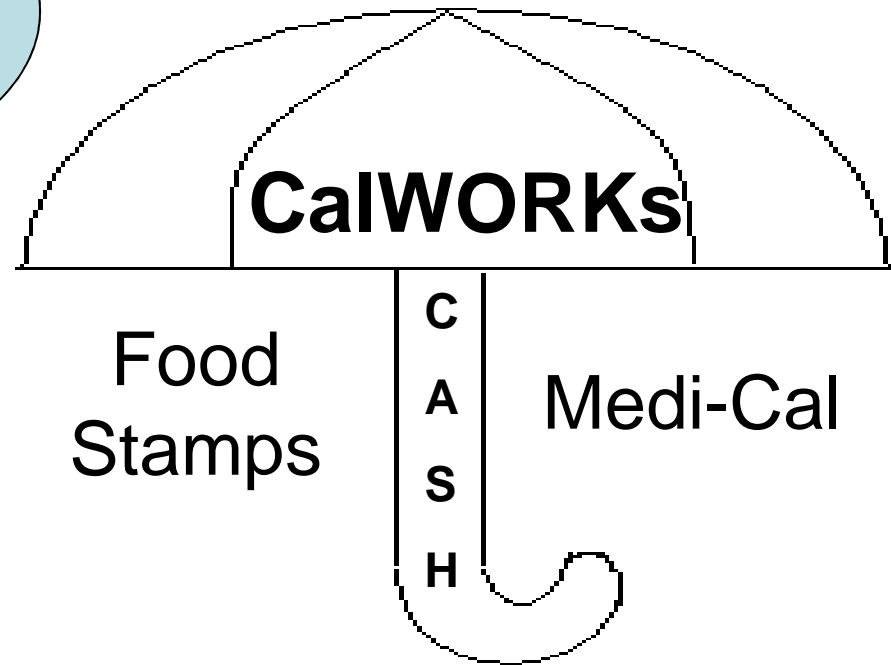
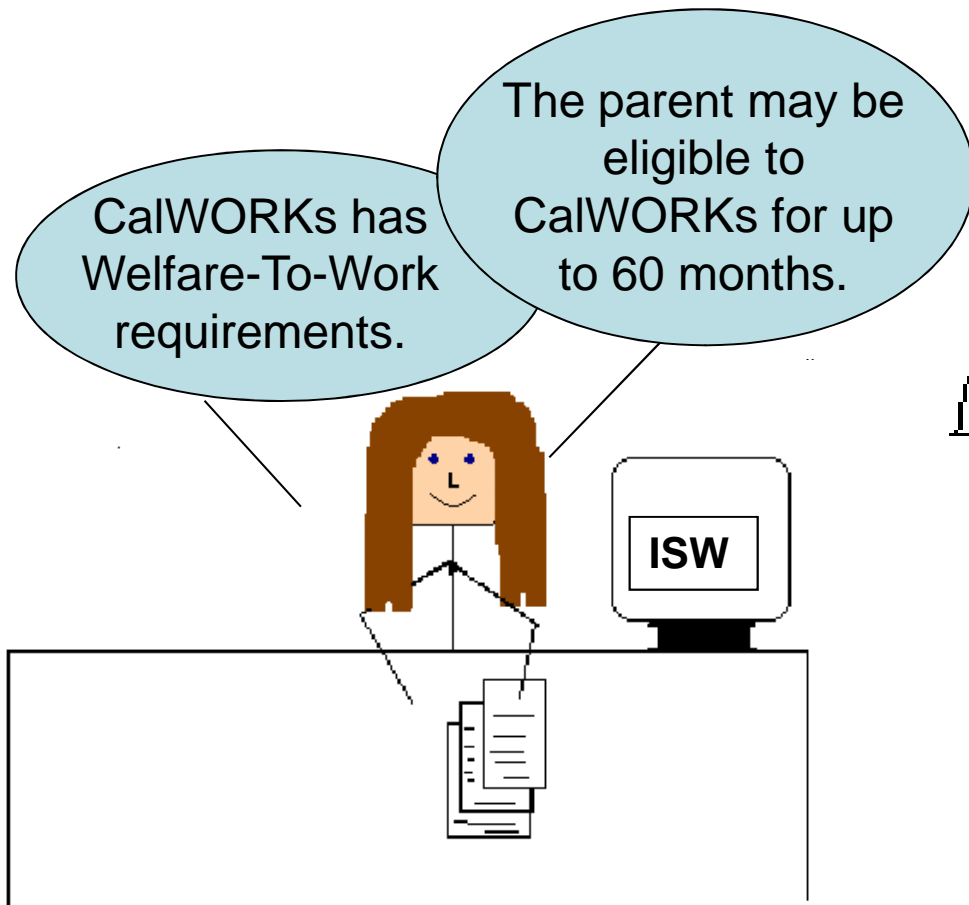
Types of CalWORKs Deprivation Required for Eligibility

The child(ren) must have one of the following:

- Death of a Parent
- Absence of a Parent
- Unemployment/Underemployment of a Parent
- Disability of a Parent

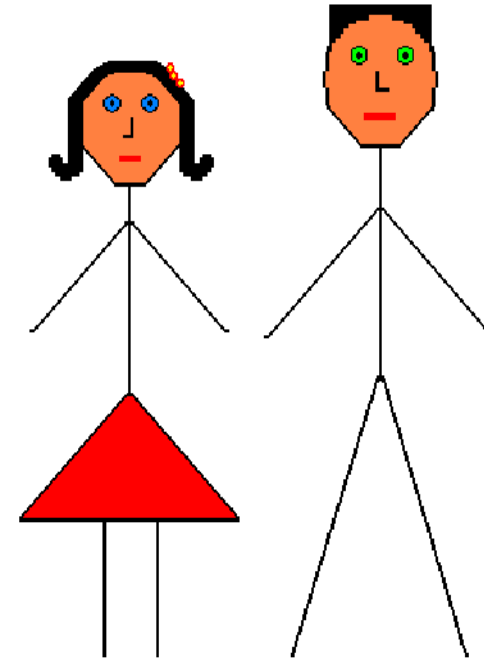
The Family is approved for CalWORKs

Once approved, the family is then Categorically Eligible for both Food Stamps and Medi-Cal.

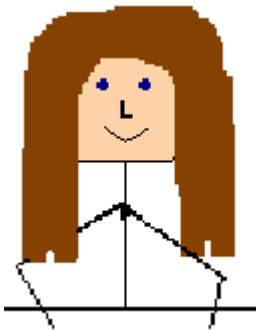


The Initial Services Worker (ISW) explains the CalWORKs program to the Family and what they may be eligible to receive what is expected of them such as:

- Submitting Quarterly Reports (QR7)
- Reporting all changes within required timeframes
- Completing Annual Recertification (RRR)
- Participate in **Welfare-To-Work** for a minimum of 35 hours a week*



CalWORKs

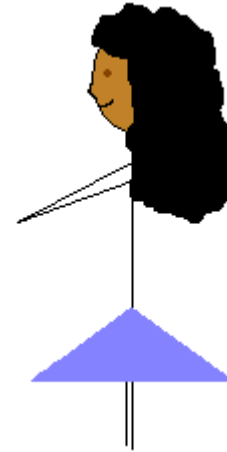
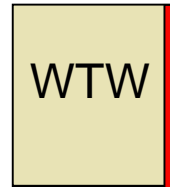
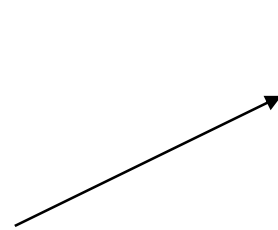
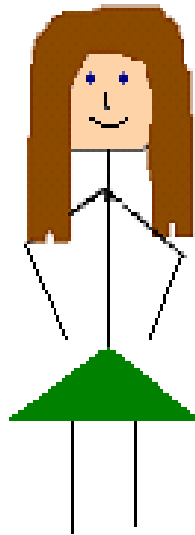


ISW

* **Note:** single parent household are required to participate in Welfare-To-Work for a minimum of 32 hours a week.

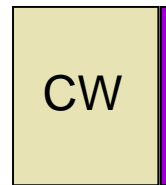
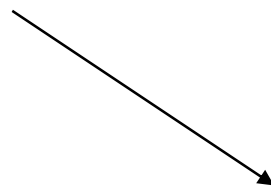
The ISW transfers the case to a Continuing Caseload

Initial Services Worker (ISW)



Case Manager (CM)/SWII

- Are either County (SWII) or contracted MAXIMUS employees

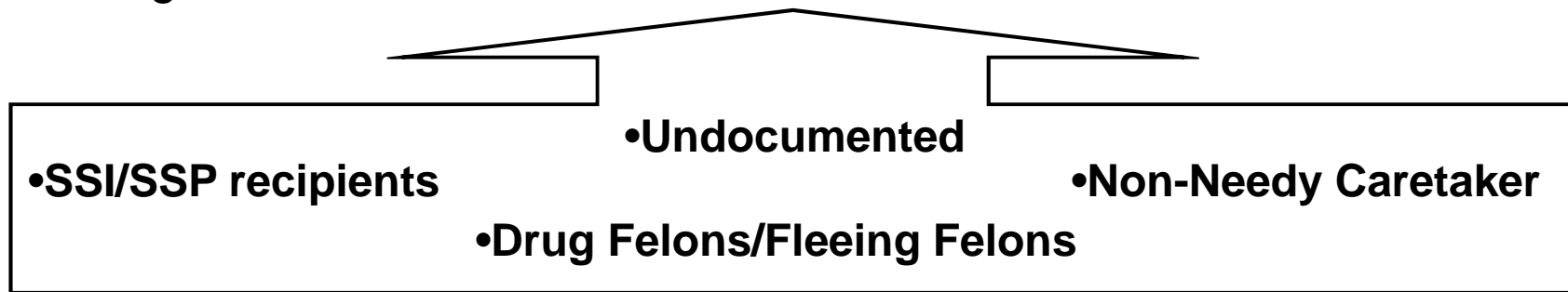


OSW/ EES

- Ongoing Services Worker
AKA
Employment and Eligibility Specialist (EES)

Zero Parent

In these cases, parent(s) are not required to participate in Welfare-To-Work (WTW) and cases are carried by Eligibility Technicians (ET). These cases require that each adult in the case be at least one of the following:

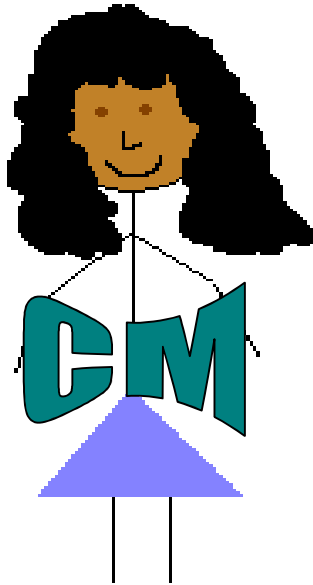


Zero-Parent case = {
No Eligibility for AB429
No CalWORKs Supportive Services
No WTW Plan
No Case Manager (CM)



Responsibilities of the Welfare-To-Work Case Manager (CM)

Welfare To Work



- Coordinates with the client to determine which WTW activities will be included in the WTW Plan
- Verifies monthly attendance in the WTW activities
- Communicates Supportive Services needs to the Ongoing Services Worker (OSW)

Case managers continually assess potential barriers for Welfare-To-Work participation.

Note: CMs do not determine or issue cash benefits

There are services and activities through Welfare-To-Work (WTW)

that include but are not limited to:

- Job Training and job search assistance (JSR)
- Drug and Alcohol Abuse Counseling
- Behavioral Health Services (BHS)
- Education/ Vocational Training
- Public Health Nurse (PHN)
- Domestic Abuse Services Unit (DASU)

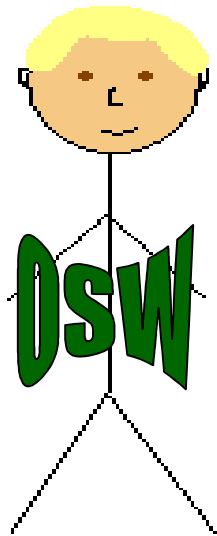
While participating in an approved WTW activity, a CalWORKs Recipient can request Supportive Services.

Support Services that may be available through CalWORKs

- Bus passes or mileage reimbursement
- Child Care
- Ancillary (money for tools, supplies, uniforms)
- Possible assistance with diapers, formula, utilities, clothing, security deposit, etc...(basic needs)
- Housing Assistance

OSW Responsibilities

CalWORKs



- Establishes ongoing eligibility for CalWORKs, Food Stamps (FS), and Medi-Cal (MC)
- Determines eligibility for once in a lifetime Temporary and Permanent Homeless Assistance (there are exceptions)
- Issues/replaces both EBT and Medi-Cal BIC cards

AND

Under direction of the Case Manager, the OSW establishes and approves **Supportive Services**

Bus passes or mileage reimbursement

Child Care

Ancillary

Why would a CalWORKs case close?

- Change in deprivation
- Over-income or over-property
- Client request
- Timing Out after 60 months on aid
- Program non-compliance
- Failure to submit required reports
- Child(ren) are removed by CFS

CalWORKs case closes, what happens next?

Food Stamps

Transitional Food Stamps (TFS)

- The client receives 5 months of TFS
- At the end of the TFS period, the client would need to apply for Food Stamps

Medi-Cal

Transitional Medi-Cal (TMC)

- Evaluated for Medi-Cal eligibility by TMC worker
- If eligible, an Eligibility Technician (ET) is assigned to the Medi-Cal case

Clients working may be eligible for up to 24 months of child care.

ACT II

The Family Becomes Involved With Children & Family Services

Child Abuse Registry (CAR)

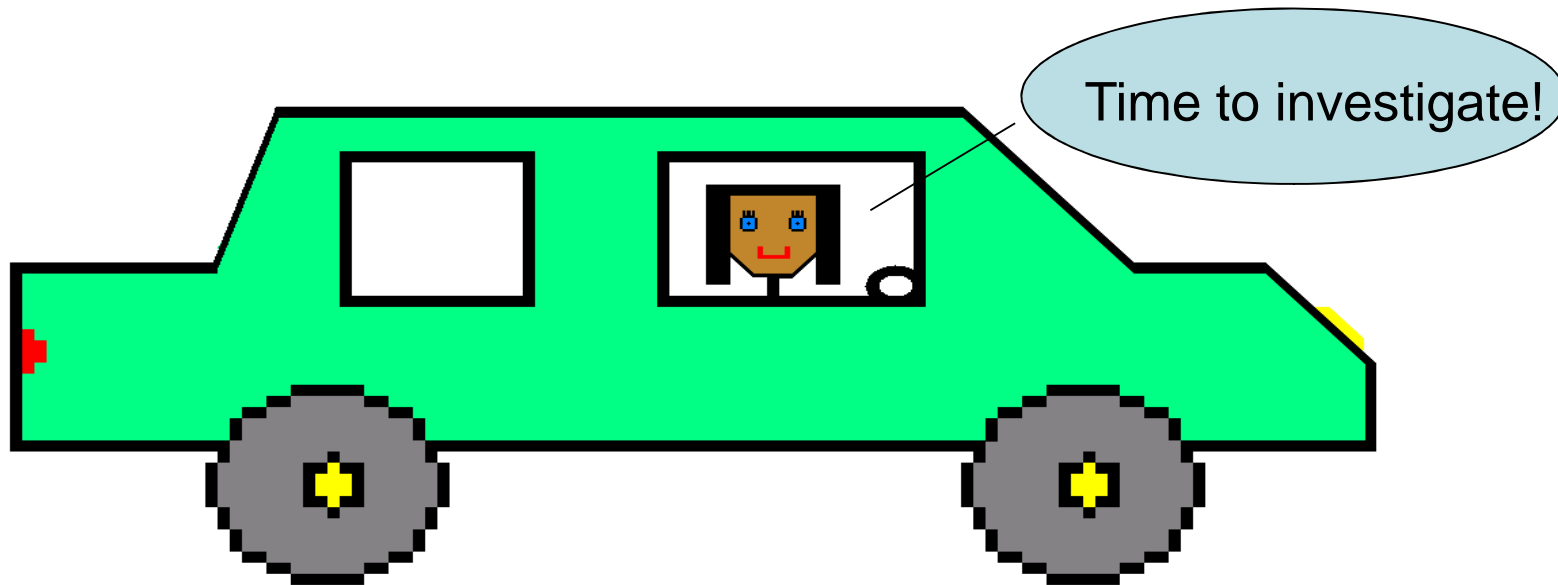
A Reporting Party phones in a Child Abuse Report regarding the Family.



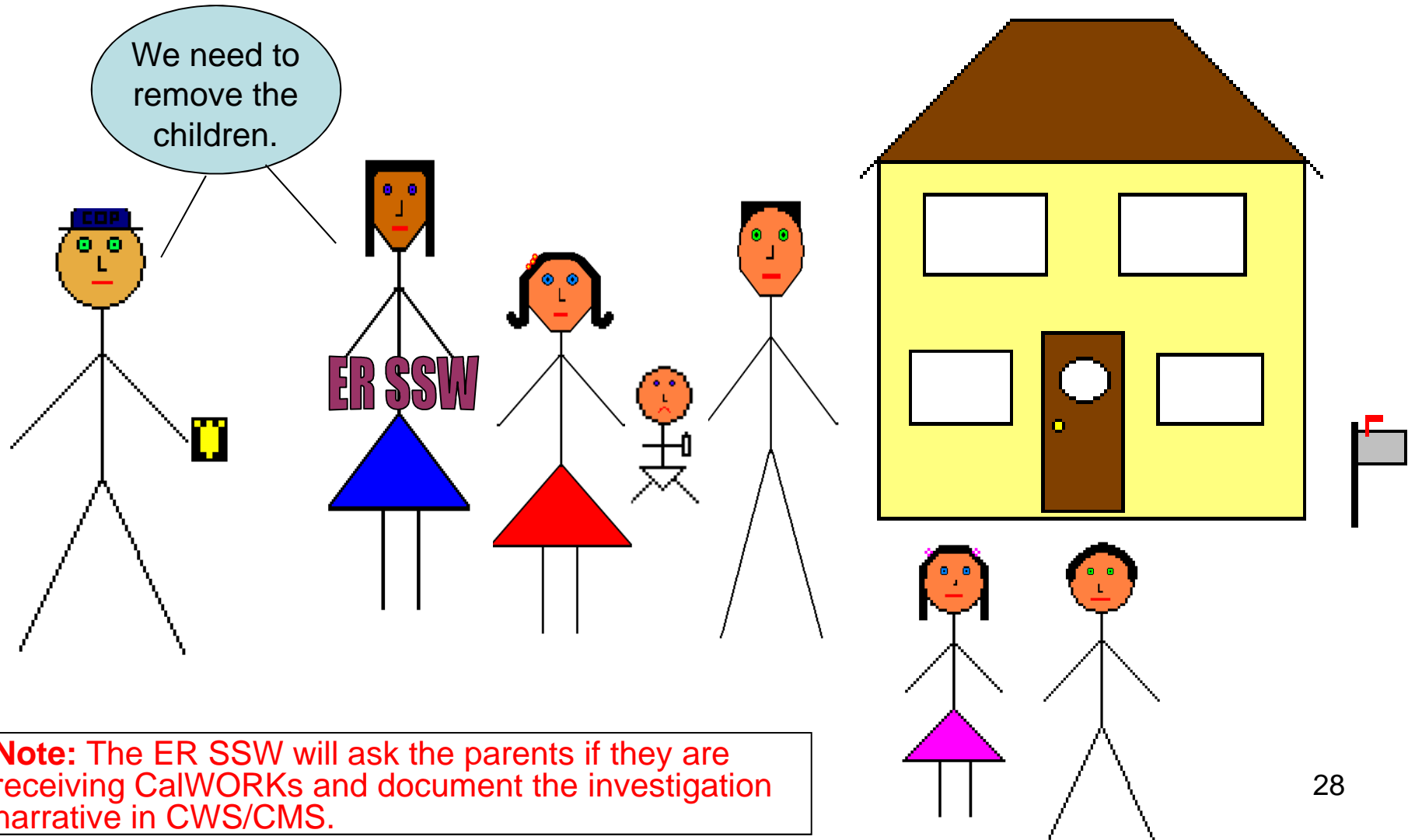
Note: CAR Clerical staff screens for an open CalWORKs case in CalWIN and documents on the referral face sheet.

Emergency Response (ER)

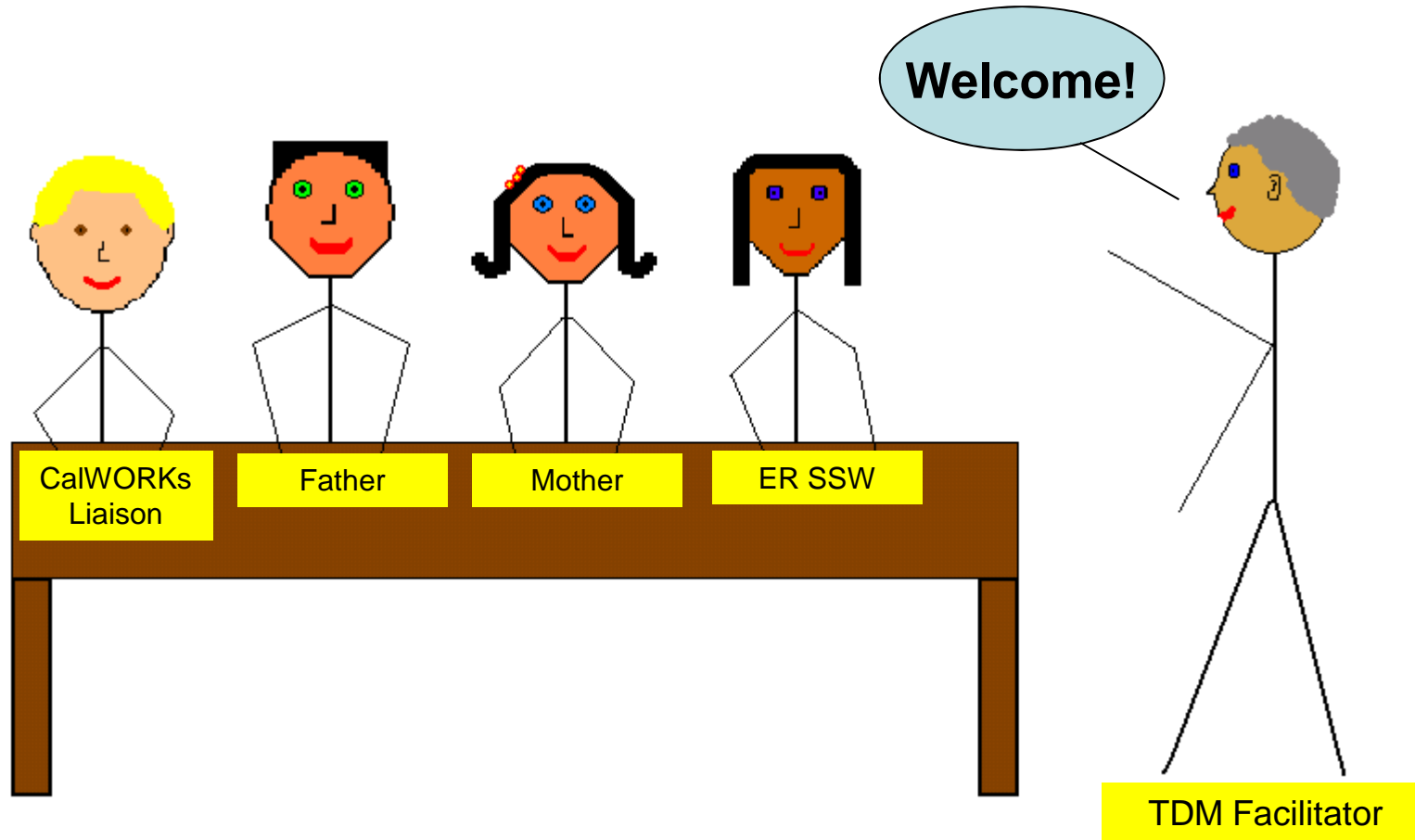
The Child Abuse Registry determines there is reasonable cause to investigate the Child Abuse Report, and an Emergency Response SSW is dispatched.



The Emergency Response (ER) worker determines there is evidence meeting criteria for children to be removed and brought into protective custody.



Team Decision Making Meeting (TDM)



- When the children are removed, a TDM is scheduled
- At the TDM, the family is screened for CalWORKs eligibility and services

The TDM Facilitator uses an information sheet at the initial TDM meeting to screen for eligibility of continued services to the family.

TDM/CALWORKS INTEGRATION INFORMATION

1. Is this family receiving a CalWORKs grant?

Yes _____ No _____

2. Are they receiving Welfare-To-Work services?

Yes _____ No _____

3. If **yes to #1** and the child(ren) are removed, does the parent(s) want the CalWORKs service started/continued(AB429)? If services are requested, the TDM action steps should reflect the following:

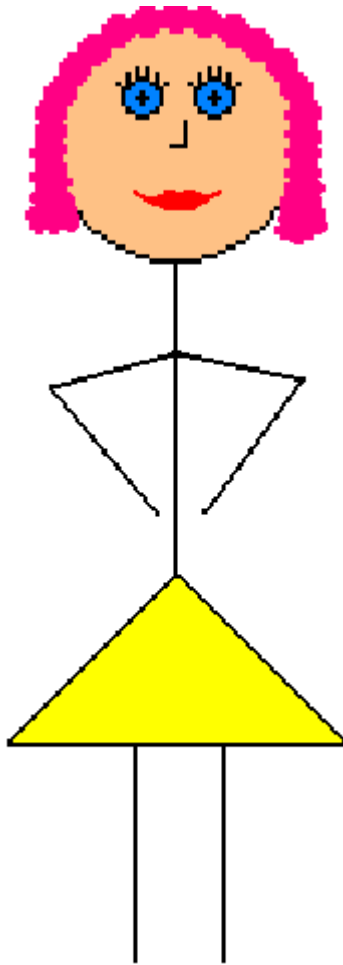
- The CalWORKs attendee at the TDM will alert the case manager of the outcome
- Intake SSW will speak with assigned CalWORKs case manager to request continued services

4. If **no to #1** Would the parent(s) like to be screened for CalWORKs eligibility?

_____ Yes, a CW preliminary screening tool was completed and an application was given to the parent to take to regional office. **Note:** Applications will be provided at each TDM meeting.

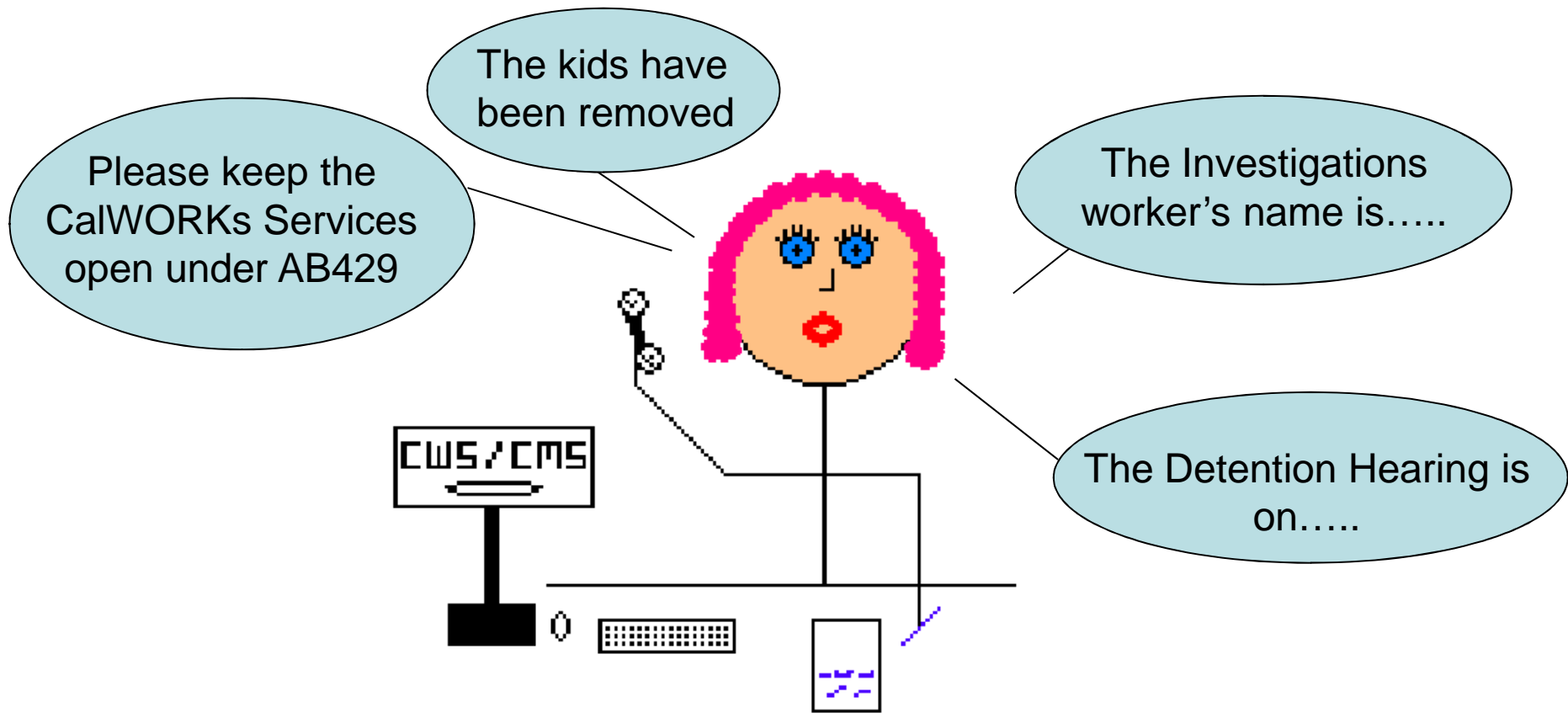
_____ No, the parent declined

Intake



The Intake SSW reviews the Emergency Response (ER) worker's investigation and continues to gather information regarding the family and the allegations. They also write the Petition and the Detention Hearing Report. (DHR)

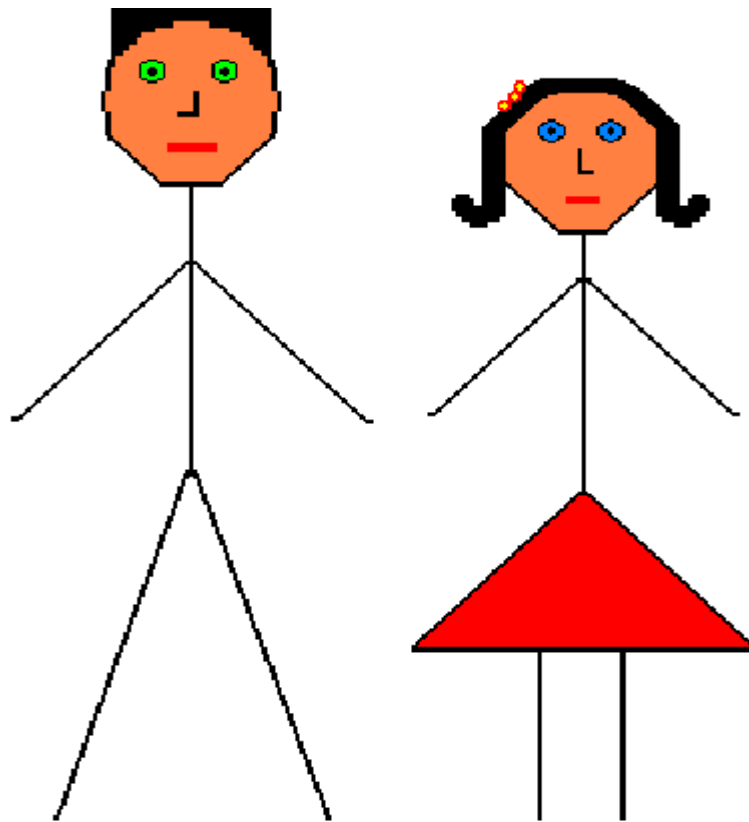
The Intake worker contacts the CalWORKs worker to report the children have been removed from the family home.



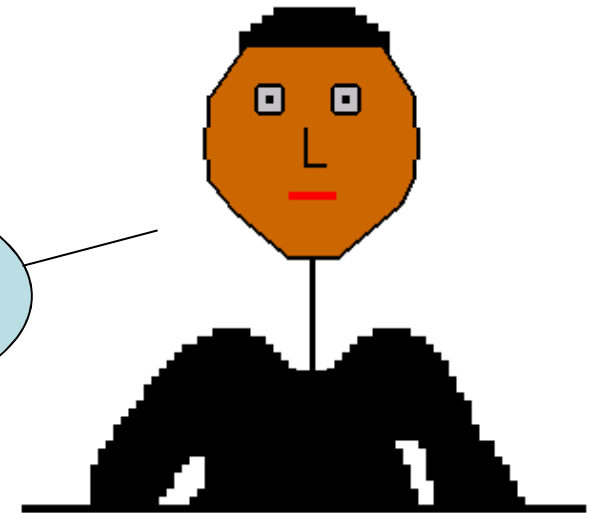
The Intake SSW specifically asks the CalWORKs worker, "Keep CalWORKs Services open under AB429"

Note: A cash grant will no longer be issued to the parent(s)

- A Detention Hearing is held at Juvenile Court within 72 hours after the children are removed from the home
- The Court reviews the family's situation and the evidence presented by the Emergency Response and Intake SSWs
- Based on this information, the Court determines the children cannot be returned home at this time



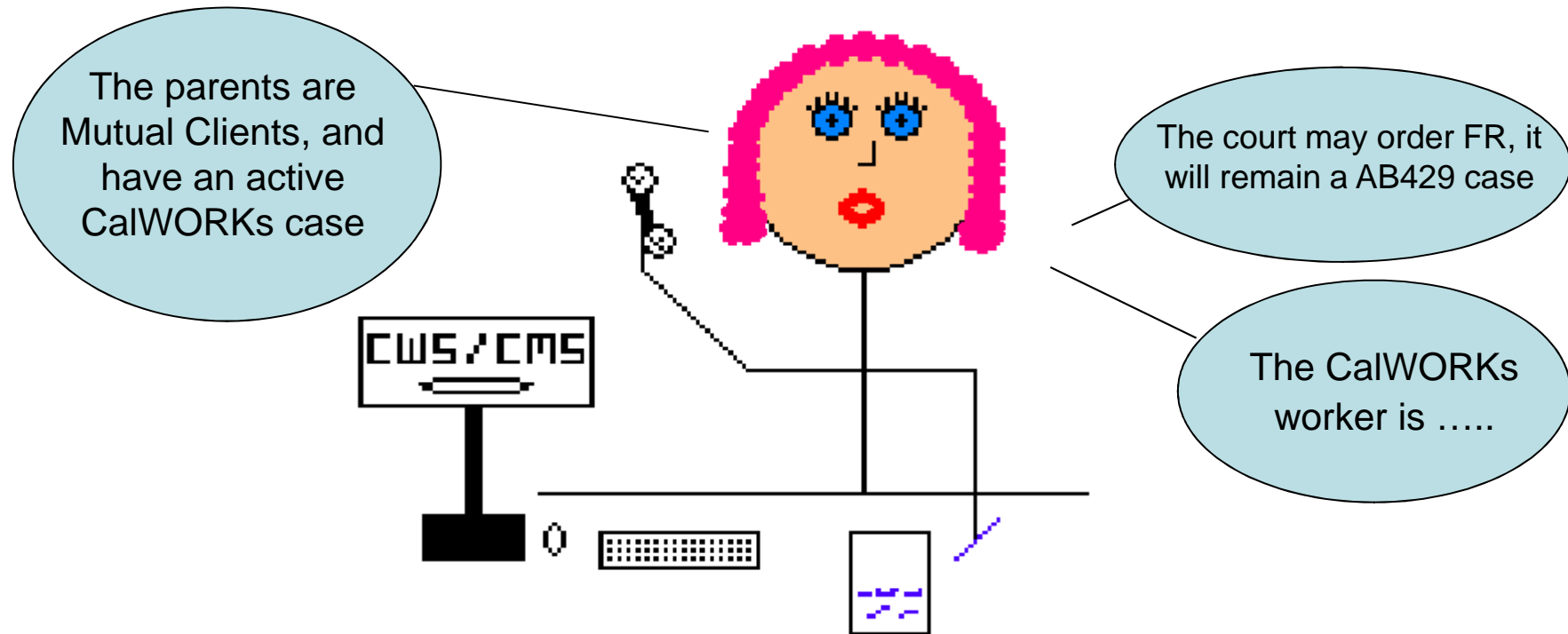
The children will remain in protective custody



Bench Officer

The Court schedules a Jurisdictional and Dispositional Hearing within the next 45 days

When the case transfers from Intake to Dependency Investigations

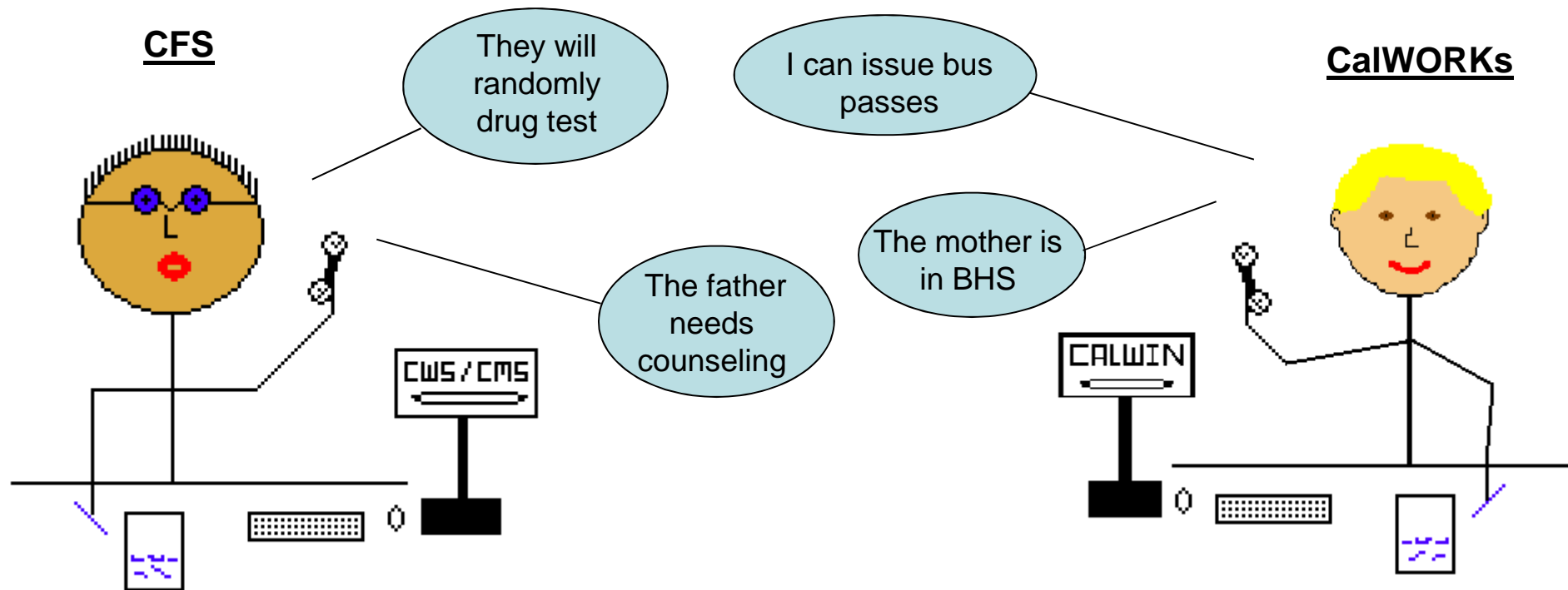


Intake SSW will notify the Dependency Investigations SSW that there is an open CalWORKs case for this family, and provide the name and contact information for the CalWORKs worker.

ACT III

Coordinated Case Planning

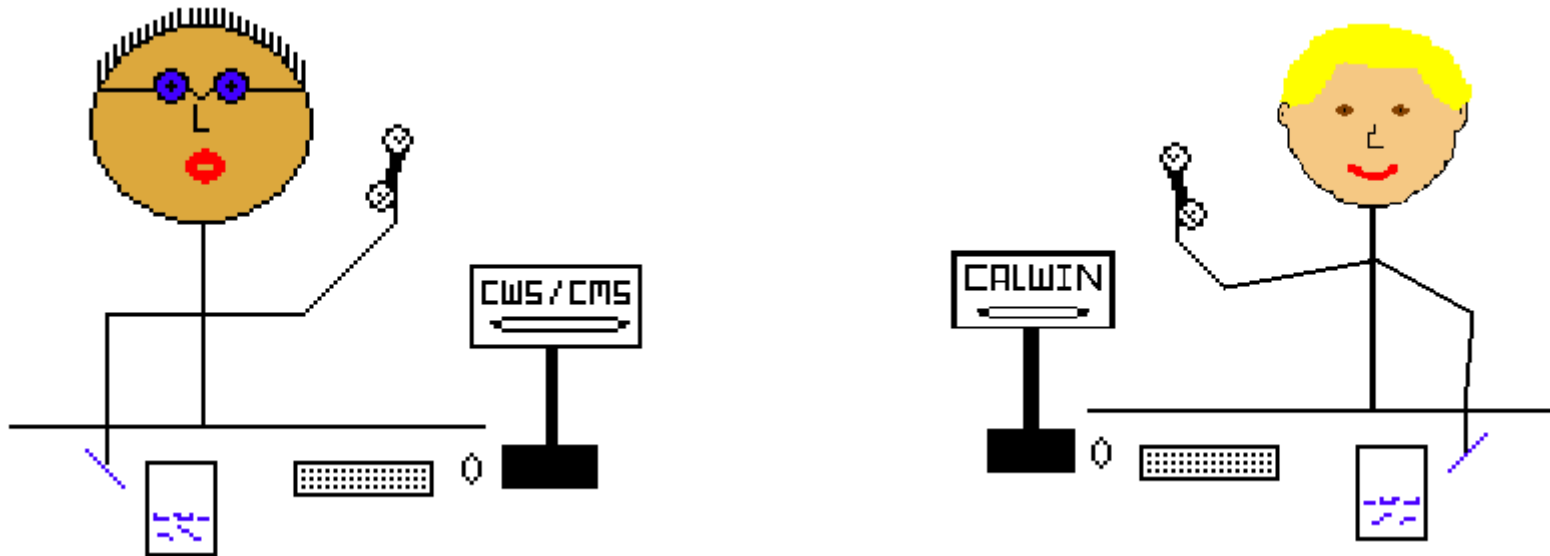
The Dependency Investigations SSW and the CalWORKs worker decide which activities each program will provide to the family, in order to support Family Reunification.



Each worker enters the service activity information for the family members into their program databases, as well as the name and contact information for the other worker.

Note* The workers can share confidential information about the mutual clients, to collaboratively create new case plans.

Linkages Recorded in CWS/CMS

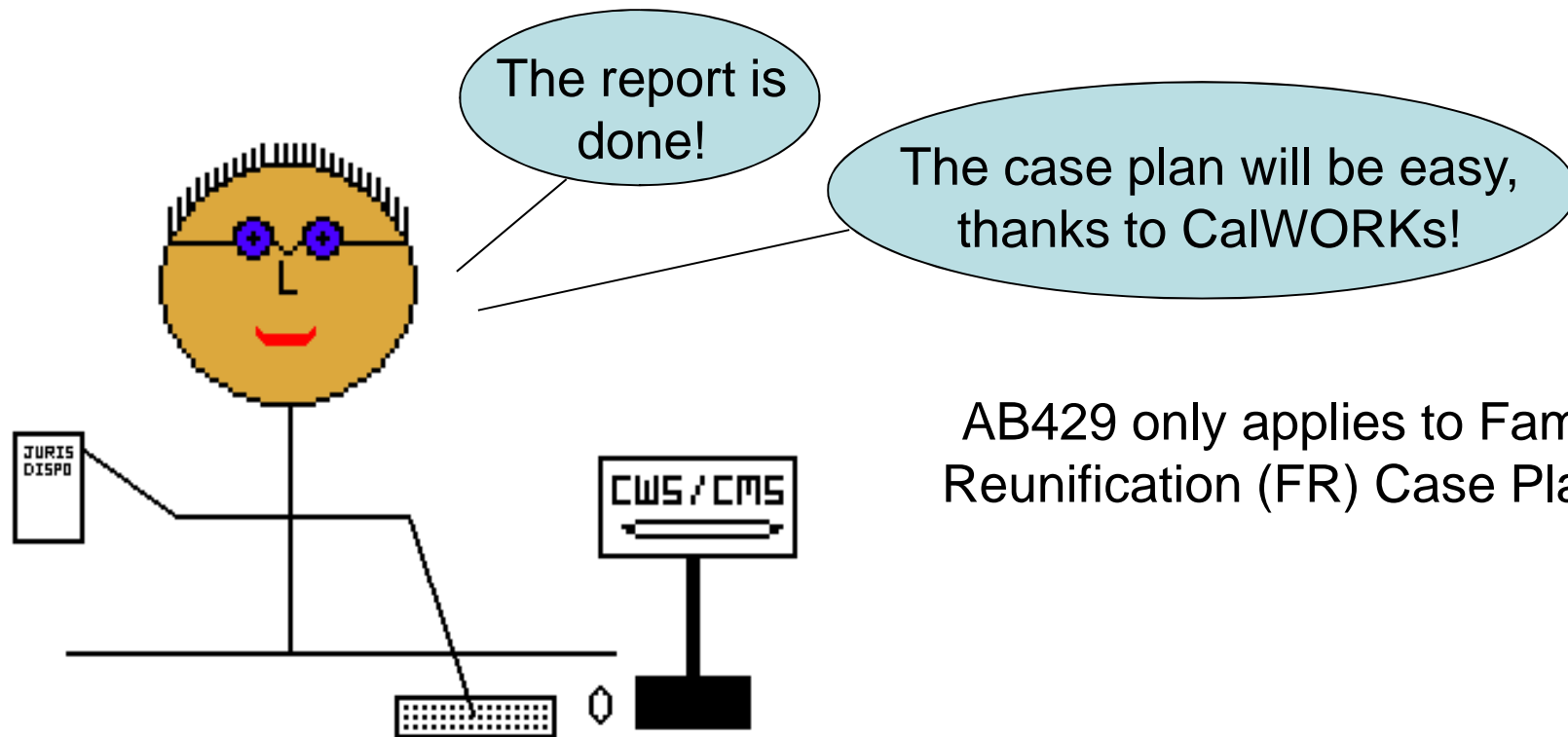


Any SSW's recording contacts will add:

"FEE meeting w/ CalWORKs Staff & Family"

In the *Case Management Service type* section of Contacts

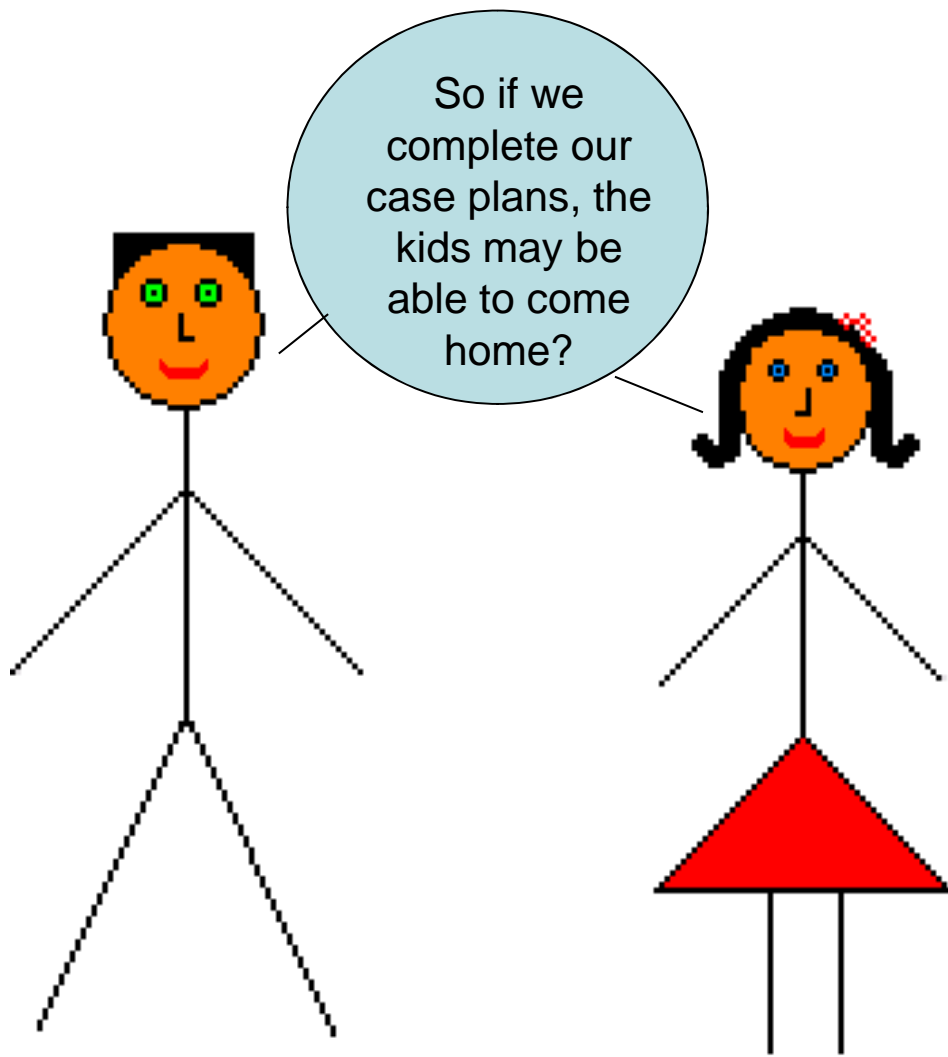
The Dependency Investigations SSW must include “CalWORKs Services” as part of the Family Reunification case plan, which is attached to the Jurisdictional & Dispositional Hearing report.



AB429 only applies to Family Reunification (FR) Case Plans

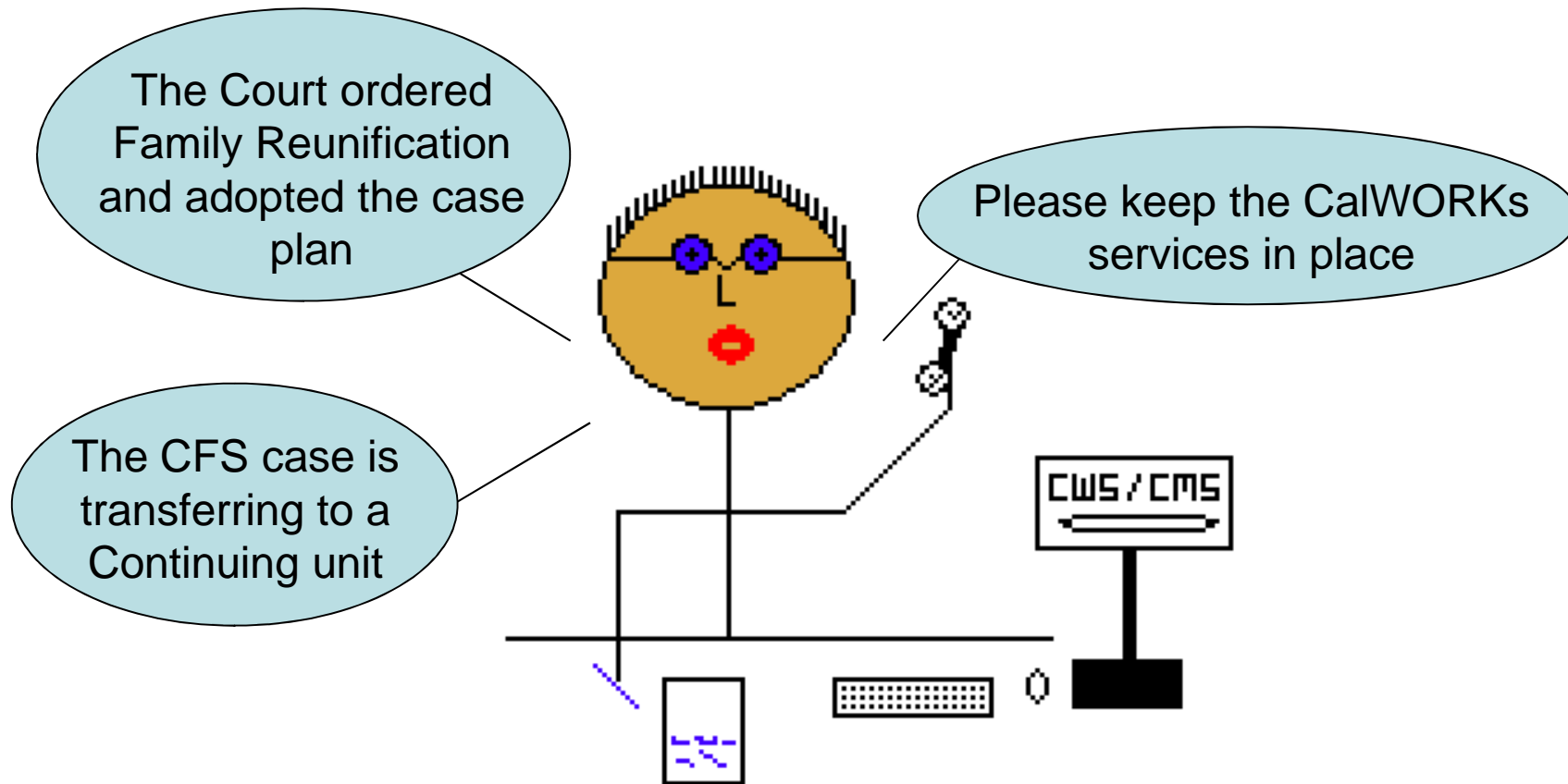
Note: If “CalWORKs Services” are not included in the Court ordered case plan, these services will not be available

At the Jurisdictional and Dispositional Hearing, the Juvenile Court orders the children to be declared dependents, and schedules a Six Month Status Review hearing. (SMR)



The Court orders Family Reunification (FR) services for the family and adopts the Case Plan.

The Dependency Investigations SSW informs the CalWORKs worker what the Court orders, and that the CFS case will be transferring to a Continuing unit .

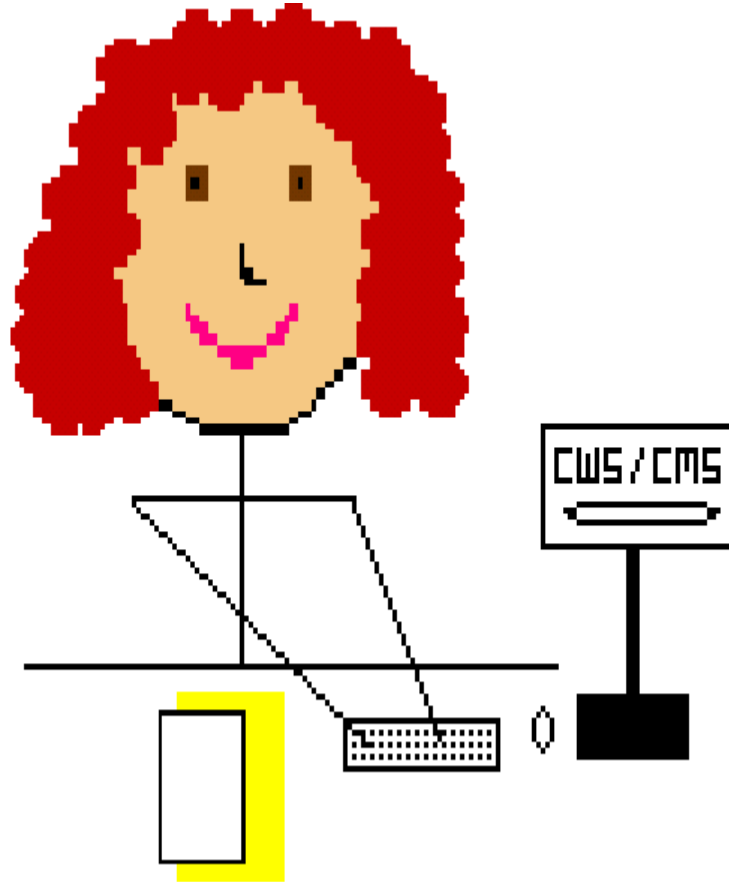


Collaborating with CalWORKs helps provide Reasonable Services

ACT IV

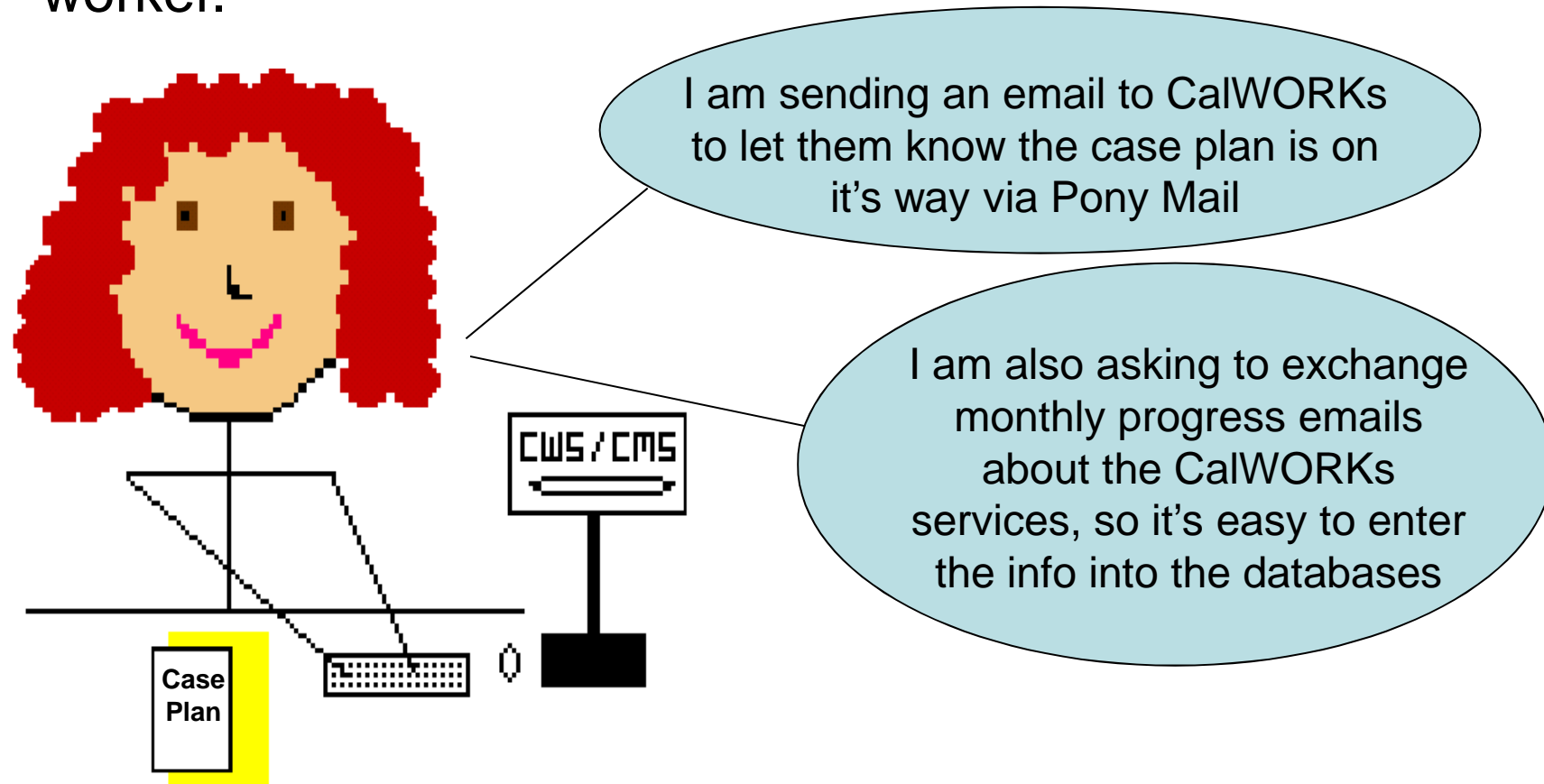
The Family Continues To Be Mutual Clients Between SSA Programs

Continuing SSW Responsibilities



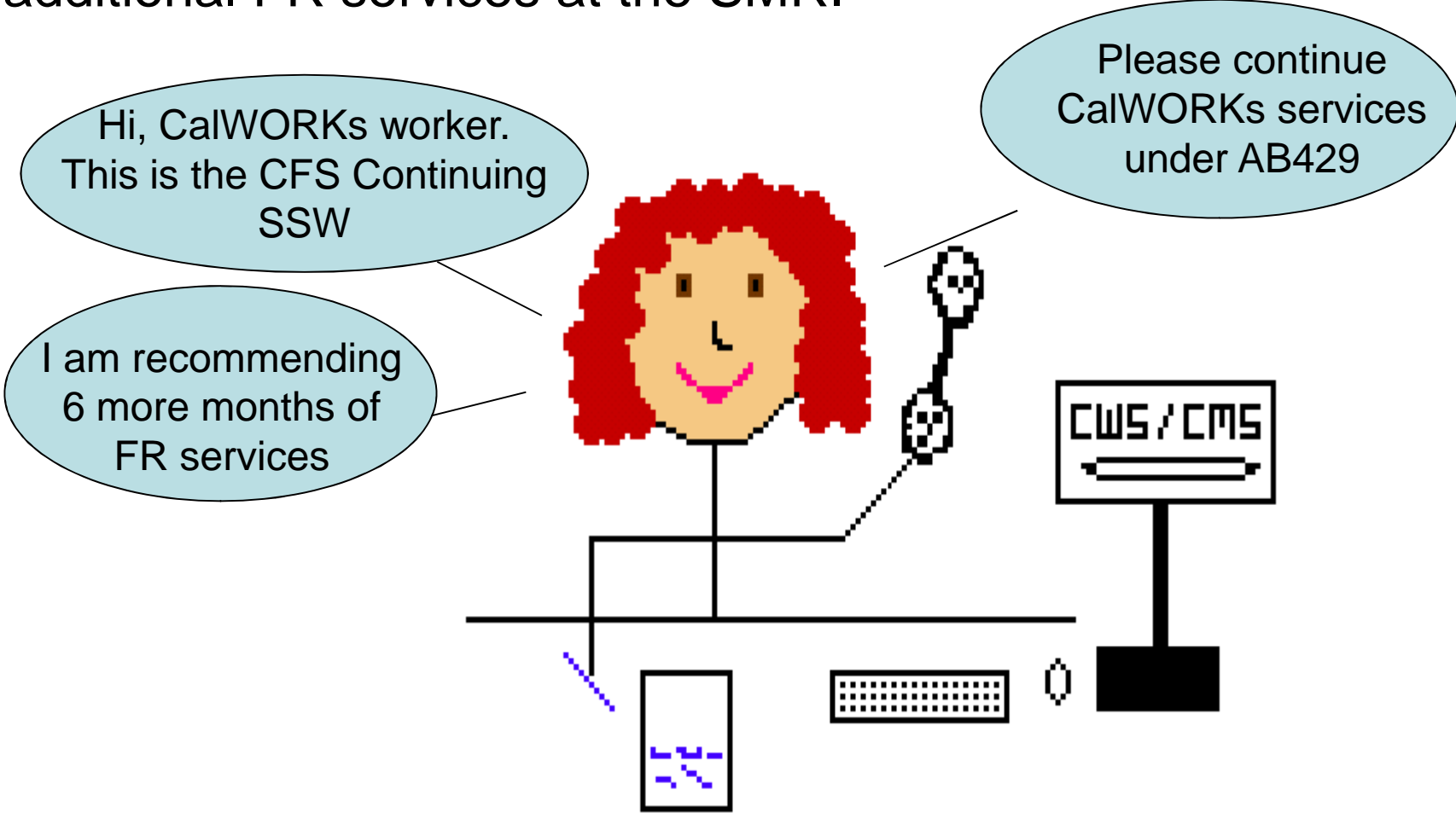
- Coordinate Family Reunification
- Coordinate Family Maintenance
- Coordinate Permanent Planning case services

The continuing SSW will forward a copy of the Court ordered Family Reunification case plan to the CalWORKs worker.



* **Note:** The initial case plan should be updated to reflect any changes the Court may have made to the original case plan submitted with the Juris/Dispo report. The Continuing SSW provides updated case plans to CalWORKs whenever changes are made.

After receiving 6 months of FR services, the family is not yet ready to reunify, and the Continuing SSW recommends additional FR services at the SMR.



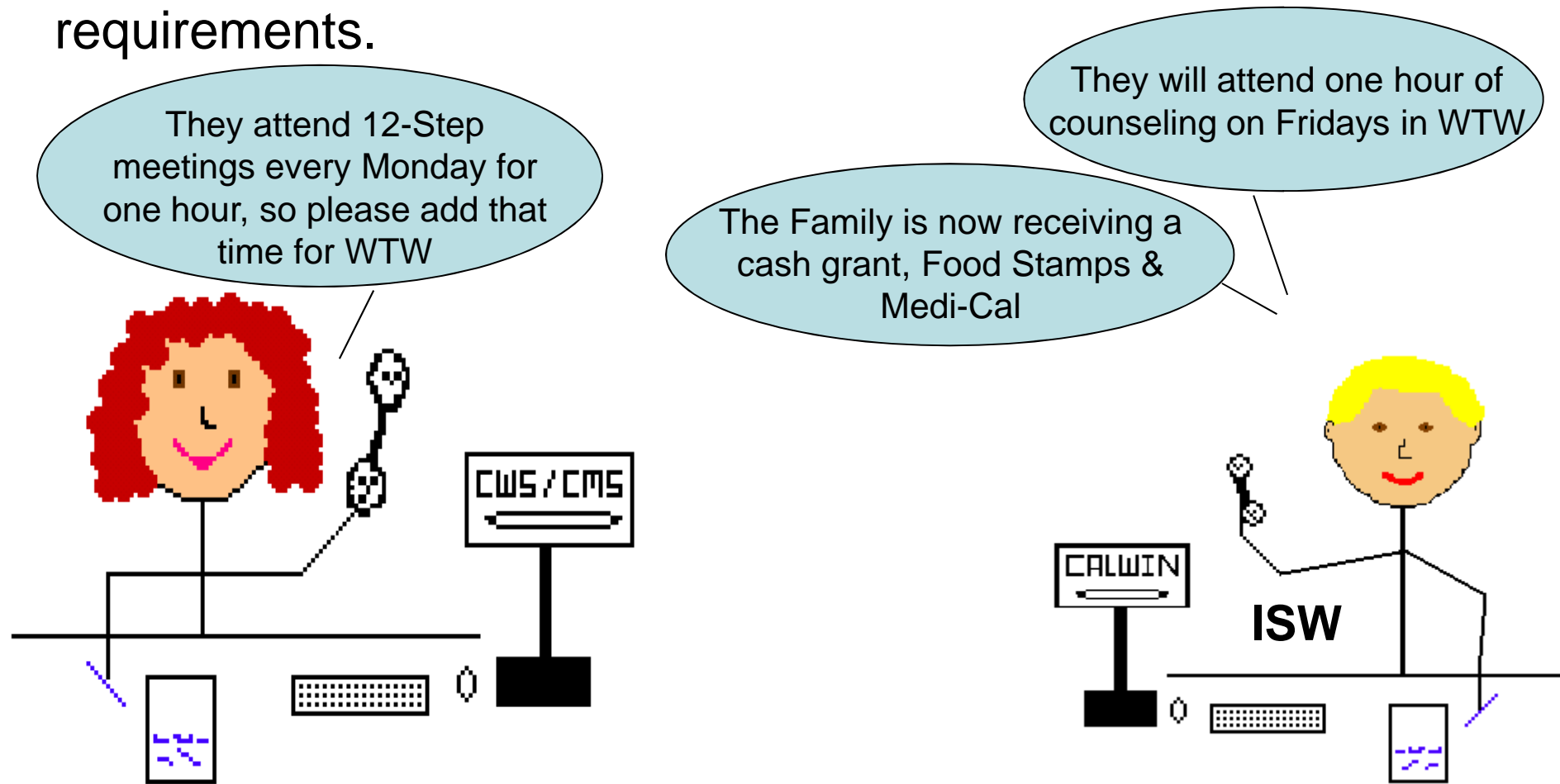
AB429 provides CalWORKs services in 6 month increments, to coincide with Court's FR Status Review Hearings.

The Family has almost completed the case plan and the Continuing SSW schedules a TDM Meeting to discuss starting a Trial Visit with the children.



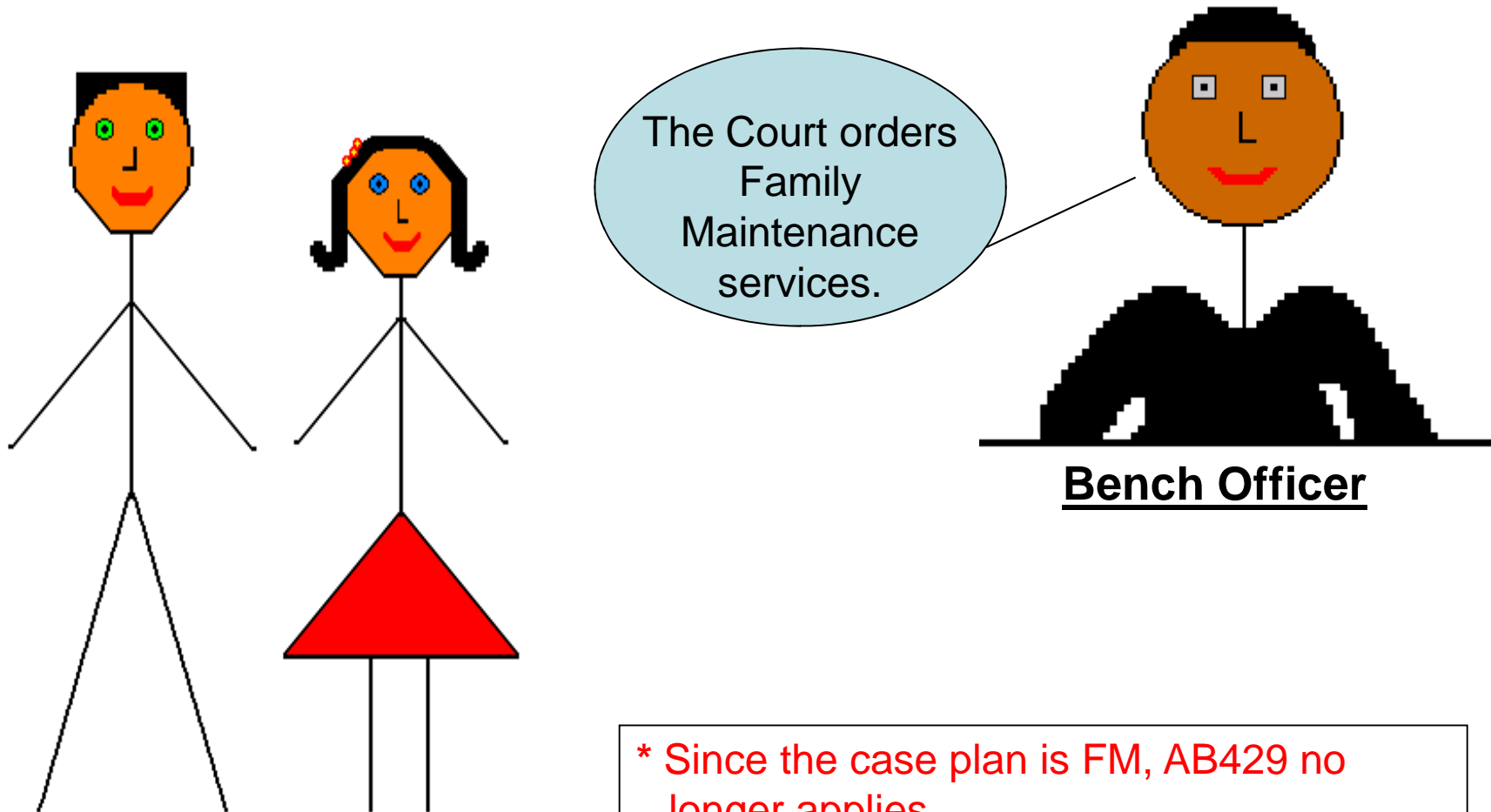
CalWORKs is invited to attend the TDM Meeting.

During the trial visit, the Family reapplies for CalWORKs and meets CalWORKs eligibility. Both the SSW and CW worker will work collaboratively with the mutual client to include Family Maintenance (FM) activities to meet both program requirements.



Note: SSW needs to inform the CalWORKs worker the days and times of the FM activities⁴⁶

After a successful Trial Visit (usually 60 days), the family's reunification services end and the Court orders Family Maintenance (FM)* services. The Continuing SSW notifies the CalWORKs Worker about the change in Court services.

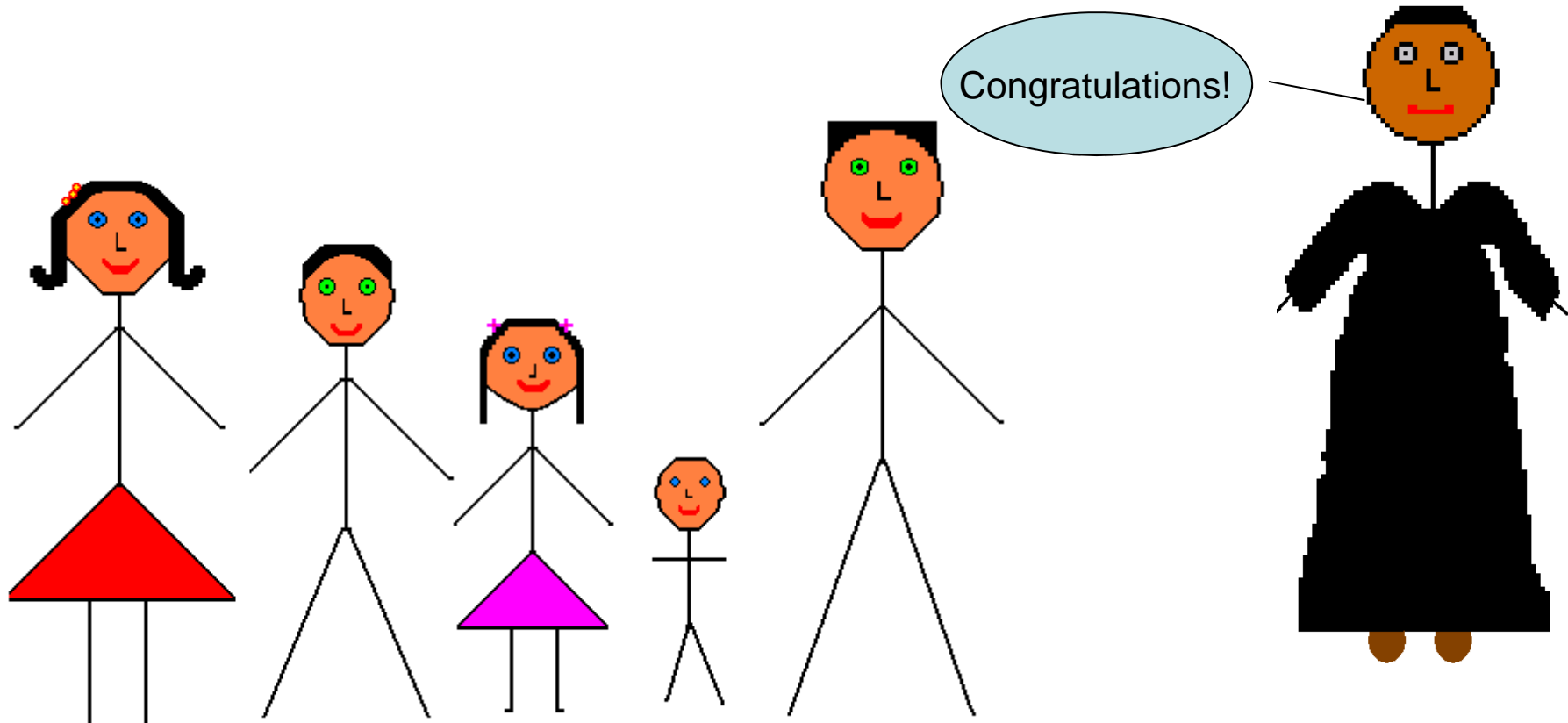


* Since the case plan is FM, AB429 no longer applies.

ACT V

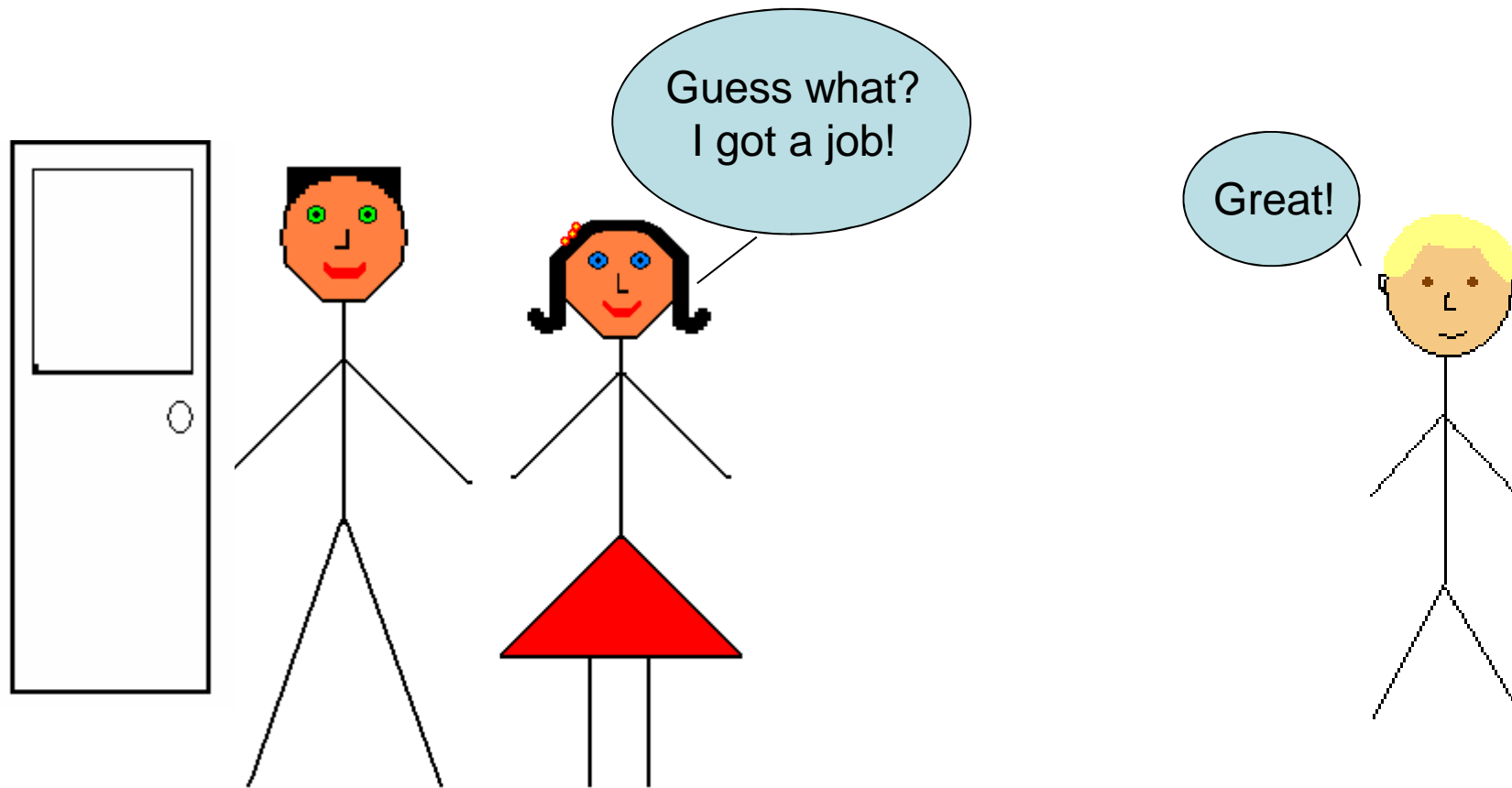
The Family Maintains
Safety and Stability
&
Attains Self-Sufficiency

After completing the Court-ordered case plan for Family Maintenance, dependency terminates and the CFS case closes.



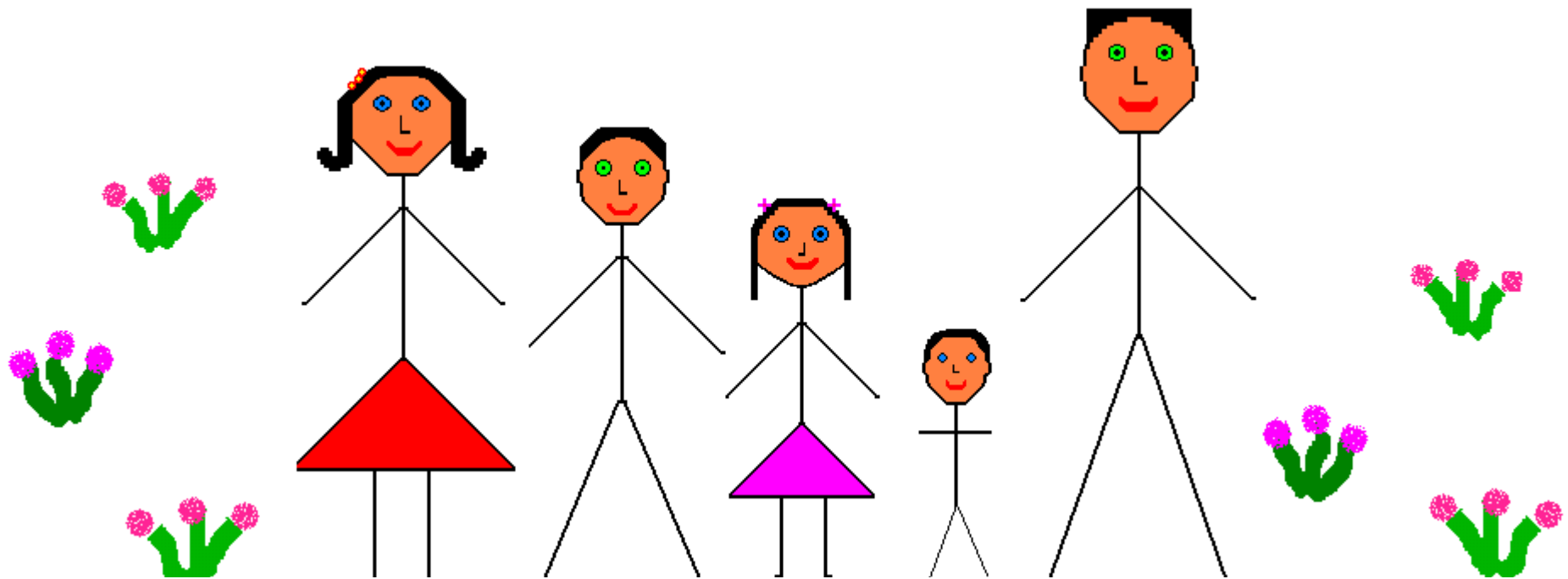
The Family is no longer a Mutual Client case

The Family still needs assistance and continues to receive CalWORKs and related services, until...



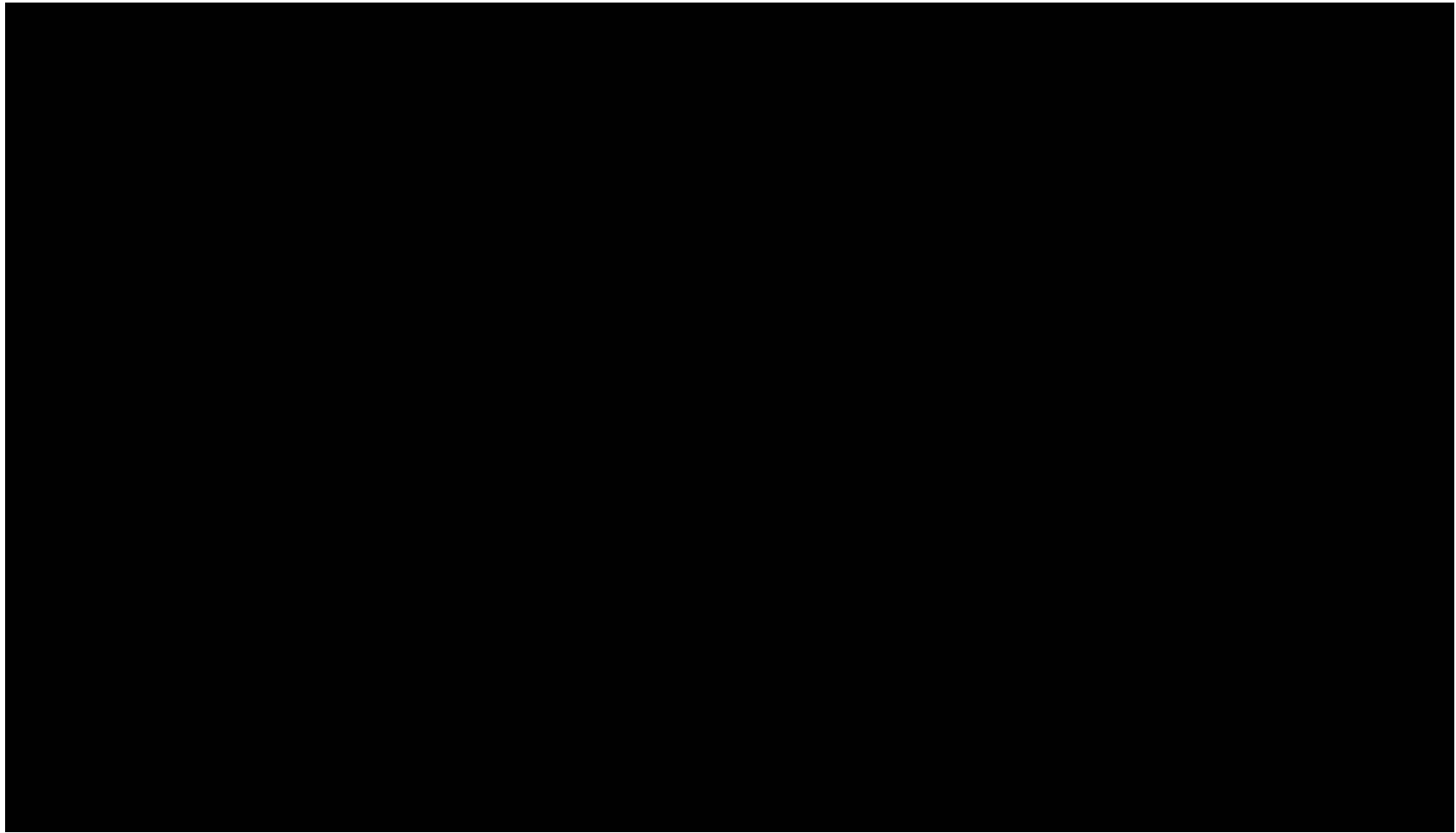
Because of the assistance of both programs the Family was able to provide safety to the children and become Self-Sufficient.

The End



ACT V

A Linkages Story from a Galaxy Far Far Away! Created by Merced County



Resources

Policy & Procedure

CFS Policy # D-0501 & D-0502

CalWORKs Policy # 403 & 403 A

Mutual Clients List

CFS Mutual Clients Reports via OCSSA Report Portal

link: <http://netapp/portal/Default.aspx?pld=1&tld=13>

FSS Mutual Clients Reports via OCSSA Report Portal

link: <http://netapp/Portal/Default.aspx?pld=1&tld=13>