

**DEPENDENCY ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM (DAP)
DCS DECISION GUIDE**

Reasons that DAP may be appropriate:

1. Is the child a victim of abuse or neglect, and there is a safe/non-offending parent?
 Yes No
2. Is the unsafe parent willing to consider a custody modification that would ensure the safety of the child?
 Yes No
3. Is the child 8 years or older and there is an appropriate relative or kin that could care for the child?
 Yes No
4. Is the unsafe parent willing to agree to a Safety Plan until DAP could take place?
 Yes No

What can DAP do?

DAP can provide two types of custody modifications that can ensure safety when the unsafe parent is willing to voluntarily cooperate with the process:

1. Custody modification between parents
 - a. This option is available for children on all ages
 - b. If parents are married, they can file for separation or divorce through DAP to establish custody orders
 - c. If legal paternity has not been established but there is an acknowledged father, legal paternity can be established through DAP.
2. Title 25 – In Loco Parentis
 - a. Provides custody of the child to family or kin that can ensure their safety
 - b. Is only available for children 8 years of age or older
 - c. Cannot be used if parents are legally married

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