

# MSL

## WHAT IS IT?

### MINIMUM SUFFICIENT LEVEL OF CARE (MSL):

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A basic set of safety criteria used in determining reunification, monitoring parents' progress so the child can be returned home, and to guide advocacy.

## WHY DO WE USE IT?

- Maintains child's right to safety & permanence while not ignoring parental rights
- The Legal Standard for Reasonable Efforts
- Obtainable for parents to reach
- Protects from individual biases & cultural neglect
- Encourages family reunification
- Keeps decision makers focused on least harmful alternative for the child

# KEY PARAMETERS

Consideration of the particular circumstances and needs of each child

Minimum conditions, and not idyllic conditions

Will vary for every family, based on child's needs, social standards, and community standards

Remains the same when considering removal and reunification

# POWERFUL QUESTIONS

By using powerful coaching questions, you can help your advocate use best interest and the MSL to guide their advocacy.

- Could the child be safely returned home today?
- Observing the home today, would the child be removed from the home?
- What biases are preventing you from recommending reunification?
- At the most basic and not idyllic level, how are the parents demonstrating an ability to meet the child's unique needs?
- How are the special needs of the child being met?
- What more can you do to keep the child connected to their community and culture?