

## CHILD WELFARE SERVICES DISASTER RESPONSE PLAN

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This template is intended to be used as a guide to help counties incorporate the 2006 federal disaster response criteria as part of local child welfare plans regarding children and non-minor dependents. Children and non-minor dependents in the probation system must also be included in the plan. County plans must be amended annually to include Child Welfare Services (CWS) Disaster Response Plans.

In September 2006, Congress passed the Child and Family Services Improvement Act of 2006 (Public Law [PL] 109-288). PL 109-288 amended Part B of Title IV of the Social Security Act to reauthorize the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program. Among other changes, PL 109-288 established requirements for states on disaster planning in child welfare under section 6(a)-(16) and Welfare and Institutions Code Section 16500.1(c)(1). Accordingly, counties are requested to address the following program areas in developing local disaster readiness plans.

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<b>CWS Disaster Response Criteria A:</b>	<b>Identify, locate, and continue availability of services for CWS children, Probation children, non-minor dependents, including non-minor dependents residing in foster care, out-of-county placements, children placed in or out of California through the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC), out-of-state non-minor dependents under county care or supervision who are displaced or adversely affected by a disaster:</b>
Essential Function:	1. Identification and location process of CWS children, Probation children, non-minor dependents, including those in probation residing in foster care, out-of-county placements, ICPC children, and out-of-state non-minor dependents who may be displaced.
Process Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ A county placement database (Child Welfare and Probation) updated monthly                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Electronic files accessible to DESS Services Division Assistant Director, Program Managers and Shelter Coordinators.</li> <li>➤ Files will include access to out-of-home placement information including:                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ List of all youth in out of home placements in Butte County, including caregiver contact information and addresses.</li> <li>▪ List of County Foster Homes and FFAs, with emergency contacts and addresses identified including non minor dependents and children from other states.</li> <li>▪ A copy of each local FFA's Disaster Plan.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ The Butte County Office of Education (BCOE) emergency contact.</li> </ul>
Essential Function:	2. Communication process with child care providers
Process Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Schools                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The FFA Emergency contact shall have school information for each child.</li> <li>➤ County Foster Home emergency contact (foster parent) shall have school information.</li> <li>➤ BCOE Emergency contact will provide school information in the event that the child is an in-home placement and on a backup basis.</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ Day Care Providers                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Community Care Licensing maintains a current child care center list.</li> <li>➤ The FFA Disaster Plans will address this communication need for children in their care.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Essential Function:	3. Identification of evacuation procedures – Event known in advance
Process Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Community Care Licensing maintains a current child care center list.</li> <li>❖ The FFA Disaster Plans will address this communication need for children in their care.</li> </ul>
Essential Function:	4. Identification of evacuation procedures – Event not known in advance
Process Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Comply with County Disaster Plan procedures re evacuation.</li> <li>❖ Comply with Red Cross procedures re evacuation.</li> <li>❖ Insure that FFA evacuation procedures are in place.</li> </ul>
Essential Function:	5. Identification of shelters
Process Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Comply with current agreement between Red Cross and Department of Employment and Social Service/Children’s Services Division to open and staff emergency shelters.</li> <li>❖ Comply with current established methods of announcing locations of shelters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ County Information Officer Press Releases.</li> <li>➢ Butte County Internet.</li> <li>➢ Emergency Operations Center.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Essential Function:	6. Parental notification procedures
Process Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ A central location, i.e., the Chico or Oroville Community Employment Center (CEC), will be established and the location released via the County Information Officer and on the County Internet.</li> <li>❖ The existing DESS Children’s Services Division (CSD) toll free number will be available.</li> </ul>
Essential Function:	7. Alternative processes for providing continued services
Process Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Utilize the 24 hour stand by procedure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ DESS CSD supervisors and social workers shall be assigned to provide supervision and welfare investigation on a rotating schedule.</li> <li>➢ Employee’s home, cell phone and work numbers are kept current to ensure employees can be contacted as needed.</li> <li>➢ The Butte County Juvenile Hall (BCJH) is identified as the 24-hour contact for the Probation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p>Department.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ All Probation Department employees' home, cell and work numbers will be retained at the BCJH.</li> <li>❖ The existing DESS CSD toll free numbers will be used for the public and emergency personnel to contact Children's Services and Probation Department representatives.</li> <li>❖ Investigations and service delivery shall be triaged and coordinated with first responders and emergency personnel.</li> </ul>
Essential Function:	8. Staff assignment process
Process Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Utilize existing beeper, stand-by and on-call process.</li> <li>❖ Organize volunteers for Social Workers and Probation Officers who are not on beeper or stand-by.</li> </ul>
Essential Function:	9. Workload planning
Process Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Prioritize and organize by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Investigation response type.</li> <li>➤ Court dates.</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ Social Workers and/or Probation Officers will staff cases with Supervisors as needed.</li> </ul>
Essential Function:	10. Alternative locations for operations
Process Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Butte County has two DESS CSD offices. If one office should become inoperable, the other will likely remain operable. Services will be provided from the operable office.</li> <li>❖ Seek direction from County Emergency Operations Center should both offices be unavailable.</li> <li>❖ Utilize identified Red Cross shelters, if necessary.</li> </ul>
Essential Function:	11. Orientation and ongoing training
Process Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Conduct annual disaster planning training with all staff at program meetings.</li> <li>❖ Include disaster plan information in the Parent Handbook.</li> <li>❖ Provide all foster care providers with a copy of the disaster plan in their "red notebook" (DESS CSD) or "Placement Binder" (Probation).</li> </ul>

<b>CWS Disaster Response Criteria B:</b>	<b>Respond, as appropriate, to new CWS cases in areas adversely affected by a disaster, and provide services in those cases:</b>
Essential Function:	1. Investigation process
Process Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Utilize the 24 hour stand by procedure:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Supervisors and social workers shall be assigned to provide supervision and welfare investigation on a rotating schedule.</li> <li>➤ Probation personnel shall be assigned to provide supervision and investigation as needed.</li> <li>➤ Employee's home, cell phones and work numbers will be kept current to ensure employees can be contacted as needed.</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ The existing DESS CSD toll free number will be used for public and emergency personnel to contact Children's Services and Probation Department representatives.</li> <li>❖ Investigations and service delivery shall be triaged and coordinated with first responders and emergency personnel.</li> </ul>
Essential Function:	2. Determine circumstances surrounding the child's potential entrance
Process Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Utilize placement procedures.</li> <li>❖ Use established shelter foster homes as available.</li> <li>❖ If shelter homes are not available use all available foster homes.</li> </ul>
Essential Function:	3. Implementation process for providing new services
Process Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Children's Services along with the Probation Department, community partners, county resources and emergency shelters shall develop a plan for how and where to provide necessary services to children and families in the event of a disaster that destroys or renders useless the existing means for service delivery. Some considerations will be:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Community Resource Centers, e.g., Paradise Ridge Family Resource Center.</li> <li>➤ Community Centers, e.g., Southside Community Center in Oroville.</li> <li>➤ Schools.</li> <li>➤ Churches.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Essential Function:	4. Services emphasizing reunification due to disaster

Process Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Community Resource Centers, e.g., Paradise Ridge Family Resource Center.</li> <li>➤ Community Centers, e.g., Southside Community Center in Oroville.</li> <li>➤ Schools.</li> <li>➤ Churches.</li> </ul>
<b>CWS Disaster Response Criteria C:</b>	<b>Address and provide care for unaccompanied minors:</b>
Essential Function:	1. Structure – CWS personnel
Process Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Shelters will have a designated unaccompanied minor secure section, to be staffed by Child Welfare and/or Probation staff.</li> <li>❖ Staff will coordinate with shelter staff for registration notification procedures.</li> </ul>
Essential Function:	2. Address language barriers to communicate quickly and effectively
Process Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Utilize nation-wide language line if no bi-lingual staff are available.</li> </ul>
Essential Function:	3. Determine likelihood of reunification and steps toward reunification
Process Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Designated staff will match lists of youth in unaccompanied minor registry with the greater shelter registry.</li> <li>❖ If youth will not be reunified with parents/guardians, already established child welfare policies and procedures for placement will be followed.</li> </ul>
Essential Description:	4. Assess and make a determination within 30 days
Process Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Existing departmental policies will be followed.</li> </ul>
<b>CWS Disaster Response Criteria D:</b>	<b>Remain in communication with caseworkers and other essential CWS personnel who are displaced because of a disaster:</b>
Essential Function:	1. Communication structure – staff
Process Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ DESS Children's Services staff can access supervisor and on-call staff via 1-800# and stand-by procedure.</li> <li>❖ All staff have cell phones.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ A DESS confidential home roster is available to all DESS supervisors, Program Managers, and the Children's Services answering service.</li> <li>❖ Probation staff can access supervisors and additional staff by contacting the Butte County Juvenile Hall.</li> </ul>
Essential Function:	2. Communication structure – CWS personnel (phone tree)
Process Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Mirror chain of command: i.e., A.D.→.P.M.→SWS→unit members.</li> <li>❖ Probation chain of command: CPO→ACPO→Placement Unit Supervisor→Case Carrying PO.</li> </ul>
Essential Function:	3. Communication structure – contracted services
Process Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Include "Plan B" (answering service) in disaster planning.</li> <li>❖ Contracted providers can access supervisor and on-call staff via 1-800# and stand-by procedure.</li> <li>❖ Contracted providers can access Probation personnel by contacting the Butte County Juvenile Hall.</li> </ul>
Essential Function:	4. Communication process when all normal channels are unavailable
Process Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Use of media.</li> <li>❖ Press releases.</li> <li>❖ County emergency services as coordinated through the Emergency Operations Center.</li> <li>❖ County Internet site.</li> <li>❖ Hand-held radio/DA Com.</li> </ul>
Essential Function:	5. Communication frequency
Process Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Establish frequency based upon the nature of the emergency.</li> </ul>
Essential Function:	6. Communication with media
Process Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Existing departmental policies will be followed.</li> </ul>
Essential Function:	7. Communication with volunteers
Process Description:	N/A

Essential Function:	8. Establishment of a toll-free number prior to disaster including Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (TDD)
Process Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Children's Services 24 hour 1-800# in existence.</li> <li>❖ Department TTY in existence.</li> </ul>
<b>CWS Disaster Response Criteria E:</b>	<b>Preserve essential program records:</b>
Essential Function:	1. Record preservation process
Process Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ CWS/CMS records will be preserved by CWS/CMS State Project following their records preservation policy.</li> <li>❖ Archived records will be preserved following Department of Employment and Social Services record retention policy and for records archived off-site using the Archives record preservation policy.</li> <li>❖ Probation Department records will be preserved following the Probation Department's record retention system policy, backed up and stored off-site.</li> </ul>
Essential Function:	2. Use of off-site back-up system
Process Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Department of Employment and Social Services (DESS) utilizes intermittent back ups during the week and a full back up of information every Friday. This information is stored by the Information Services Division of DESS. This process backs up all non CWS/CMS computer information.</li> <li>❖ CWS/CMS records are backed up and stored off site according to the CWS/CMS State project policy.</li> <li>❖ The Probation Department and the Butte County Information Systems Department utilize intermittent information back up and off-site storage/accessibility.</li> </ul>
<b>CWS Disaster Response Criteria F:</b>	<b>Coordinate services and share information with other states and counties; include a description of the process utilized by the county to ensure that information regarding children placed pursuant to the ICPC occurs with both the sending state and CDSS:</b>

Essential Function:	1. ICPC reporting process must include a process that disseminates information to both the sending state and CDSS
Process Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Utilize Business Objects and CWS/CMS to identify those Butte County children placed out of state and those children from out of state who are placed in Butte County.</li> <li>❖ The ICPC Office is responsible for serving as the communications liaison between California and other states as California's dependent children relocate to another state, or other state's children relocate to California.</li> <li>❖ The primary point of contact will be the ICPC Coordinator.</li> <li>❖ In the event of a disaster, the ICPC Coordinator will inform the ICPC Office and CDSS of youth in the disaster area.</li> <li>❖ The DESS CSD existing toll free number will be used for the public and emergency personnel to contact Children's Services and Probation Department representatives.</li> <li>❖ The Butte County Internet site will be updated with emergency information.</li> </ul>
Essential Function:	2. Mental health providers
Process Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The Program Managers will serve as liaisons for their respective programs.</li> <li>❖ The DESS CSD existing toll free number will be used for the public and emergency personnel to contact Children's Services and Probation Department representatives.</li> <li>❖ The Butte County internet site will be updated with emergency information.</li> </ul>
Essential Function:	3. Courts
Process Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The Children's Services' attorney will act as liaison with the Dependency Court and other attorneys and will coordinate with Courts in other states if necessary.</li> <li>❖ The Probation Department Supervisor will act as liaison with the Delinquency Court.</li> <li>❖ The DESS CSD existing toll free number will be used for the public and emergency personnel to contact Children's Services and Probation Department representatives. The Butte County Internet site will be updated with emergency information.</li> </ul>
Essential Function:	4. Federal partners
Process Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Butte County will utilize liaisons at CDSS and other state and federal resources.</li> <li>❖ Butte County will follow FEMA guidelines for emergency disasters.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ All procedures will be vetted through the County Emergency Operations Center.</li> <li>❖ The DESS CSD existing toll free number will be used for the public and emergency personnel to contact Children's Services and Probation Department representatives.</li> <li>❖ The Butte County Internet site will be updated with emergency information.</li> </ul>
Essential Function:	5. CDSS
Process Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Butte County will utilize liaisons at CDSS and other state resources.</li> <li>❖ Butte County will follow FEMA guidelines for emergency disasters.</li> <li>❖ All procedures will be vetted through the County Emergency Operations Center.</li> <li>❖ The DESS CSD toll free number will be used for the public and emergency personnel to contact Children's Services and Probation Department representatives.</li> <li>❖ The Butte County Internet site will be updated with emergency information.</li> </ul>
Essential Function:	6. Tribes
Process Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Coordination with established Tribal liaisons will occur.</li> <li>❖ The DESS CSD existing toll free number will be used for the public and emergency personnel to contact Children's Services and Probation Department representatives.</li> <li>❖ The Butte County Internet site will be updated with emergency information.</li> </ul>
Essential Function:	7. Volunteers
Process Description:	N/A