

QUESTIONS JUDGES AND ATTORNEYS SHOULD BE ASKING SOCIAL WORKERS AT A DETENTION HEARING IN A CASE INVOLVING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- (1) What steps did you take to remove the abuser from the family home?**
- (2) Have you or the mother called law enforcement?**
- (3) Did you consider placing the mother and child in a battered woman's shelter?**
- (4) Did you consider having the mother and child reside with a relative?**
- (5) Did you consider in-home services to support and protect the mother?**
- (6) Did you assist the mother secure a temporary restraining order?¹**
- (7) Since the time of removal what steps have you taken to secure safe housing for the mother?**
- (8) Is it safe to return the child to the mother today?**
- (9) What would be necessary in order to make it safe to return the child to the mother?**
- (10) Are you prepared to provide the mother temporary support for housing and food?**
- (11) Have you referred the mother to a domestic violence advocacy organization?**
- (12) Have you helped mother sign up for the California Safe At Home Confidential Address Program – for parents who are not residing in a shelter with a permanent, nonresidential legal address. (Gov't Code §§6205 et seq.)**

¹ The judge also has the power to issue a temporary restraining order based upon the petition, supporting documents and any evidence produced at the hearing. (Welf. & Inst. Code § 213.5.)