



County of Los Angeles  
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

425 Shatto Place, Los Angeles, California 90020  
(213) 351-5602



# When Taking Temporary Custody of Children, You Must Have One of the Following:

## Warrant



For help obtaining a warrant during business hours, call (323) 881-1303.

For after hours, weekends, or holidays, call (213) 639-4500.

Warrant Consultation Requests are accessible through CWS/CMS.

## Consent



Consent is only valid if it is freely and voluntarily obtained.

Ensure the parents have a clear understanding and freely and voluntarily agree to all of the following:

- (a) Limitations will be placed on their care, custody, and control of the child(ren), including visitation
- (b) There will be ongoing DCFS intervention
- (c) Court will be involved (if not a Voluntary FR Case)
- (d) Parents have the right to limit/withdraw consent at any time.

**TIP:** Obtain consent in writing or try to have a colleague present to witness parents consenting to the detention and remember to document in CWS/CMS.

## Exigency



A situation that involves immediate/imminent risk of serious bodily injury (physical and/or sexual abuse) where you must take immediate action. *If the child will be safe and free from risk of serious physical/sexual harm during the time it will take to obtain and serve a warrant (minimum 8 to 12 hours), then you do NOT have exigency.*

**TIP:** In determining exigency, consider the nature of allegations, risk to the child, age of the child, flight risk.

**REMEMBER:** Exigency may exist for one child, but not the siblings.

**Questions? Need Help? Consult with your SCSW or County Counsel.**