



# OFFICE OF RESPONDENT PARENTS' COUNSEL

Protecting the Fundamental Right to Parent



## **IN THE PARENTS' SHOES:** WALKING THROUGH THE SYSTEM AS A RESPONDENT PARENT

[COLORADOORPC.ORG](http://COLORADOORPC.ORG)



## Who We Are

The ORPC's mission is to protect the fundamental right to parent by providing effective legal advocates for indigent parents in child welfare proceedings. This right is better protected when a parent has a dedicated advocate, knowledgeable about child welfare laws and willing to hold the state to their burden. Our duties are to provide training and resources, develop practice standards, and advocate for systemic and legislative changes in Colorado.



Shawna Geiger,  
Director of Engagement



Christy Van Gaasbeek,  
Training Director

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🖥️ When poll is active, respond at **PollEv.com/christinevan048**

📱 Text **CHRISTINEVAN048** to **22333** once to join

## Why do YOU do this work?



No responses received yet. They will appear here...

Visual settings



Activate



Show responses



Lock



Clear responses



Fullscreen



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# What is your goal when you get a case?



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**A goal of the Children's Code is to “prevent the placement of abused and neglected children out of the home and to reunify the family whenever appropriate.”**

**C.R.S. § 19-3-100.5(1)**

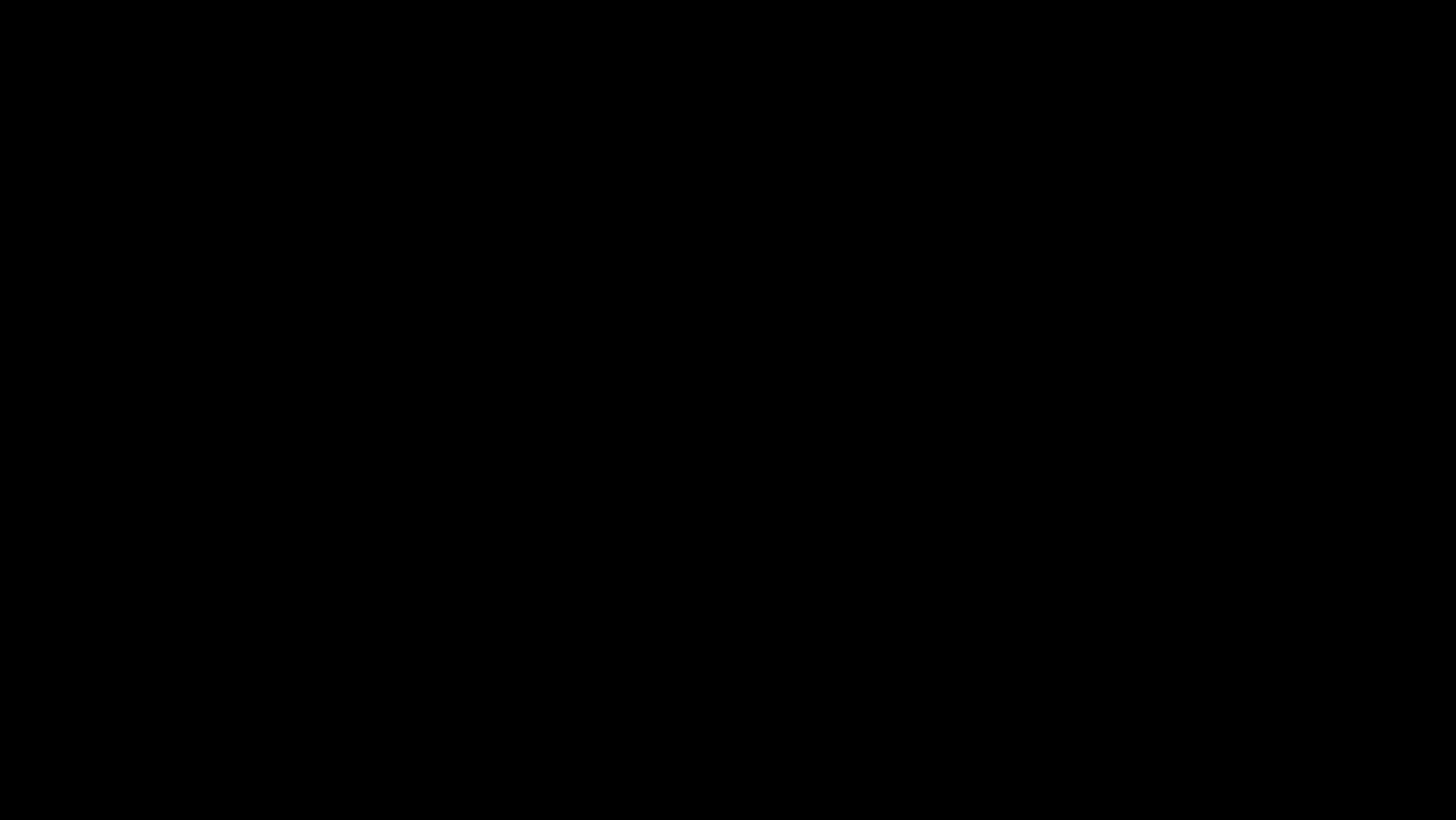
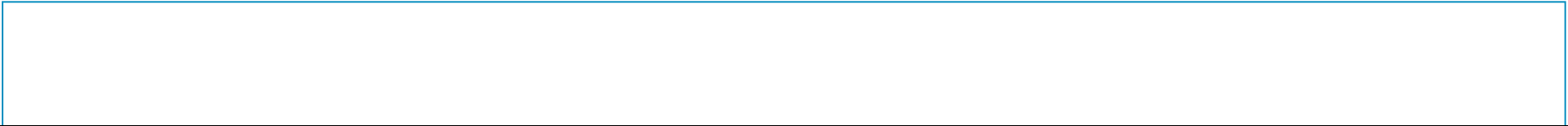
But

WHY???

# Separation Trauma







# Failed Adoptions



“Clinical research shows that . . .  
[c]hildren generally suffer worse  
outcomes when removed than if  
they had been allowed to remain  
in marginal homes.”

Trauma Caused by Separation of Children from Parents (2019)

# Michael Tate: From Foster Care to Adult Prison



As participants in the child welfare system, what *MUST* our first thought be in every single case?

A black and white silhouette of a family of four walking away from the viewer. The father is on the left, holding the hand of a young child. The mother is on the right, holding the hand of another young child. They are all walking in the same direction, away from the camera.

**REUNIFICATION!!**

# Barriers to Parental Engagement





# Barriers to Parental Engagement





# Barriers to Parental Engagement



# What can CASAs do to help?



What  
Do I Do  
Now

