

Vignette 1: Information Sharing and Confidentiality

Scenario:

James Sanchez is a 34-year-old Latino father living with his partner and their two children (ages 5 and 8). Spanish and English are spoken in the home, with Spanish being the primary language. James has open cases with both Child Welfare Services (CWS) and CalWORKs. The CWS social worker learns of domestic violence in the home, information which James shared confidentially during a CWS assessment. The CWS worker is aware this has *not* been disclosed to the CalWORKs worker and is not part of the current CalWORKs case file. Meanwhile, the CalWORKs worker (unaware of the domestic violence) continues to focus on job search requirements with James.

Discussion Prompts:

- What would CW prioritize?
- What would CalWORKs prioritize?
- Where could misalignment occur?
- What would aligned practice look like?
- When should CWS share sensitive information (e.g. domestic violence disclosures) with CalWORKs? What triggers or criteria should be used?
- How can confidentiality be maintained while ensuring coordinated service delivery across systems?
- What existing protocols, memoranda of understanding (MOUs), or privacy guidelines do agencies use (or should use) to guide interagency communication in these situations?