Minimum competencies for child welfare professionals to work with survivors of domestic violence:

- Interviewing skills to engage survivors:
  - Comfortably discusses child safety concerns in a non-blaming manner
  - Elicit information about the perpetrator’s pattern of coercive control and battering
  - Discuss and document the survivor’s actions to ensure child safety and well-being
- Accurately assesses and recognizes patterns of coercive control and battering and their impact on the survivor’s parenting efforts and caregiver protective capacities
- Makes referrals to and actively consults with co-located advocates from the local certified domestic violence center
- Recognizes the protective efforts of the survivor by assessing for and respecting strengths as they relate to day to day actions taken to help ensure child safety and well being
- Works collaboratively with the survivor to develop a separate and confidential child safety plan
- Partners with the survivor to develop a case plan that supports child safety AND survivor-identified needs
- Collaborates with community victim service organizations and other professionals as needed to create a strong referral process and working relationship
- Makes appropriate referrals to substance abuse, mental health, and in-home service support services

Minimum competencies for child welfare professionals to work with children when coercive control and battering is present in the home:

- Is familiar with and can recognize how battering behavior may impact children throughout developmental stages
- Is familiar with and can use age appropriate interviewing techniques, including asking open-ended questions
- Is able to assess and document domestic violence as a factor, including an accurate description of the perpetrator’s abusive behavior and actions taken to harm the children
- Is familiar with and prepared to appropriately address a range of child reactions related to the perpetrator’s violence
- Is knowledgeable about and can appropriately engage law enforcement and the criminal justice system to hold the perpetrator accountable for the harm to the children

Minimum competencies for child welfare professionals to work with domestic violence perpetrators:

- Interviewing skills to engage perpetrators:
  - Accurately assesses and recognizes coercive control and battering tactics
  - Comfortably discusses child welfare concerns in a respectful manner without colluding
  - Ability to keep the focus of the interview on batterer’s behavior and impact on the family
- Is able to develop a perpetrator-focused safety plan that includes actions that are directly related to controlling danger threats to the child created by the perpetrator’s violence
- Is able to develop a case plan with perpetrator input that focuses on measurable behavior change related to coercive control and other diminished caregiver protective capacities.
- Understands and is knowledgeable as to appropriate services for domestic violence perpetrators such as batterer intervention programs that engage with the criminal justice system in accountability and monitoring
  - Can articulate dangers related to other interventions such as family/couples counseling and anger management classes
  - Understands that mental health and substance abuse issues are not causal and should be addressed separately from the domestic violence
- Is knowledgeable about and can appropriately engage law enforcement and the criminal justice system to hold the perpetrator accountable for their violence
- Can develop a petition that focuses on the domestic violence perpetrator as the source of the child safety concerns