

## INTRODUCING THE PLAN OF SAFE CARE (PROVIDER SCRIPT)

When developing a Plan of Safe Care (The Plan), it is important that those receiving The Plan have an accurate understanding of its purpose and potential benefits. This guide offers example language to use when introducing The Plan to families. Feel free to change the language and use your own words to help the mom/family see how The Plan applies to them and may help them meet their needs.

### Introduction Example

**“Hi [Name], I wanted to introduce you to a tool we have been using with [pregnant / parenting] women to help them keep organized, be able to quickly reference information, and demonstrate all that they have been doing to keep themselves, their children, and their family healthy and safe. It is called the Plan of Safe Care. The Plan was originally created for pregnant and postpartum moms who have a history of substance use and their infants. We have found, however, that it can be helpful for other families too— families that are coordinating a lot of services from different providers or organizations, families who have engaged with child welfare in the past or think they might in the future, and families going to court. The tool helps keep everything together in one place so that it is easier for you to talk to your doctors, social workers, recovery coaches, case workers, and court staff—all of your providers-- about the things you are doing and the things you still need. You do not HAVE to use it but I thought it might be helpful to you given your history of [put relevant history here]. If it is ok, let me show the tools and resources in this portfolio binder and you can decide if it is something you want to use.”**

Show mom the portfolio binder and walk her through each document and tab. It doesn't have to be a lengthy showcase.

There are a few things you may want to highlight as you show her the tool.

1. Many people can help mom fill out the forms, especially the main Plan of Safe Care form that houses a lot of medical information. Encourage mom to share it with her other providers but note that she doesn't have to share it if she doesn't want to or doesn't trust the person.

Example language: **“There are sections here, like the medical and psychiatric history sections, where it might be helpful to have someone help you fill it out. It can be really helpful to both you and the people you are working with to show them this—this way they can see what you have already done and it can help both of you identify services or resources you still need. There may be people you don't want to show it to and that is ok.”**

2. There are things that will not apply to the mom/family. Remind mom she can skip questions that don't apply or cross them out.

Example language: **“This is your Plan of Safe Care. You don't have to answer any questions on these forms that you don't want to or that don't apply to you. It is ok to cross them out or put n/a for not applicable.”**

3. This is a living document and was created for families and providers to update as services progress and needs get met or new needs arise. Having an updated plan can be very helpful at the time of delivery and when meeting with new service providers, going to court, meeting with child welfare, etc.

Example language: **“You will want to keep this updated so I suggest you take it with you to doctors appointments, meetings with your social worker/case manager, etc. You can put any printouts or summaries from your appointments right in the appointments tab. You can also record your next appointment date on the log form so you wont forget it.”**

For pregnant women: **“It is really important you update The Plan before you deliver your baby and remember to take it with you to the hospital. This way you can show the nurses and doctors anything you think will help them take care of you – like your medications list, the doctors you get care from, etc.**

For women on medication assisted treatment: **“For women on Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), we highly recommend you take The Plan to the hospital with you and have your MAT provider's and prescription information with you. Because your baby may have withdrawal symptoms from the MAT, it can be helpful to show this to your doctors and the staff at the hospital so they know all that you have done to prepare for your baby and who to contact at your MAT clinic if they need to verify your prescription.”**

For families working with child welfare or going to court: **“This is a really great tool to help you showcase all that you have done and accomplished to help keep yourself and your baby healthy and safe. Families have really found this tool helpful when they are meeting with their case worker, lawyer, and when going to court. Be sure to update it before you go to court or see your case worker.”**

Remember, there is an explanation at the beginning of each section/document and on the “Portfolio Overview” cover page.