

**aah chishtipistihch awaash-uschiniichisiu
sikischaayimuwiniyu**

Cree Youth Protection Commission



Introduction

Topic:

How are Youth Protection services provided to the vulnerable children and families of our territory

Context:

Desire to improve the services and make them more adapted to our needs and culture



What are the reasons for the Youth Protection services to become involved in a child's situation?

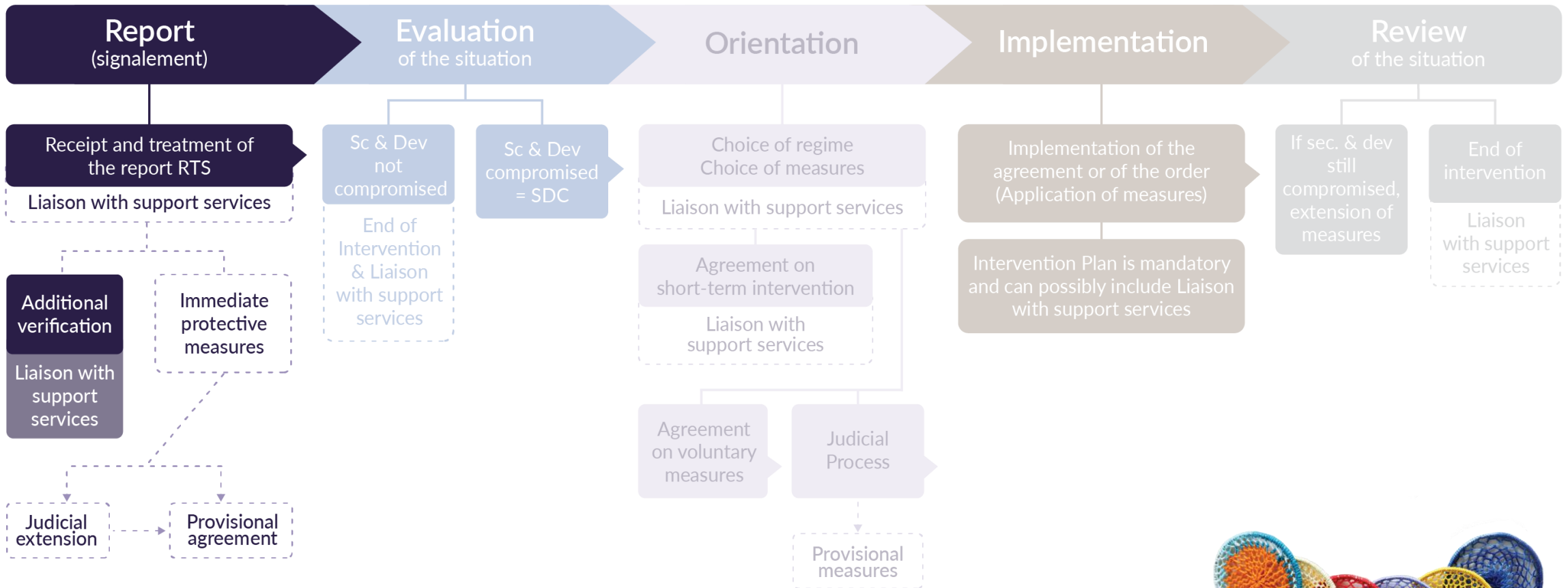
1. The child has been abandoned by a parent or guardian.
2. The child has suffered or is likely to suffer from physical, health-related or educational neglect.
3. The child has suffered or is likely to suffer from physical harm or injury.
4. The child has suffered from emotional maltreatment, including exposure to intimate partner violence or family violence.
5. The child has suffered or is likely to suffer from sexual abuse, including sexual exploitation.
6. The child has been exhibiting behavioural problems and the parents have failed to take necessary steps to correct the situation or the child 14 years old or over objects to such steps.



Youth Protection Intervention Process

1 - Report

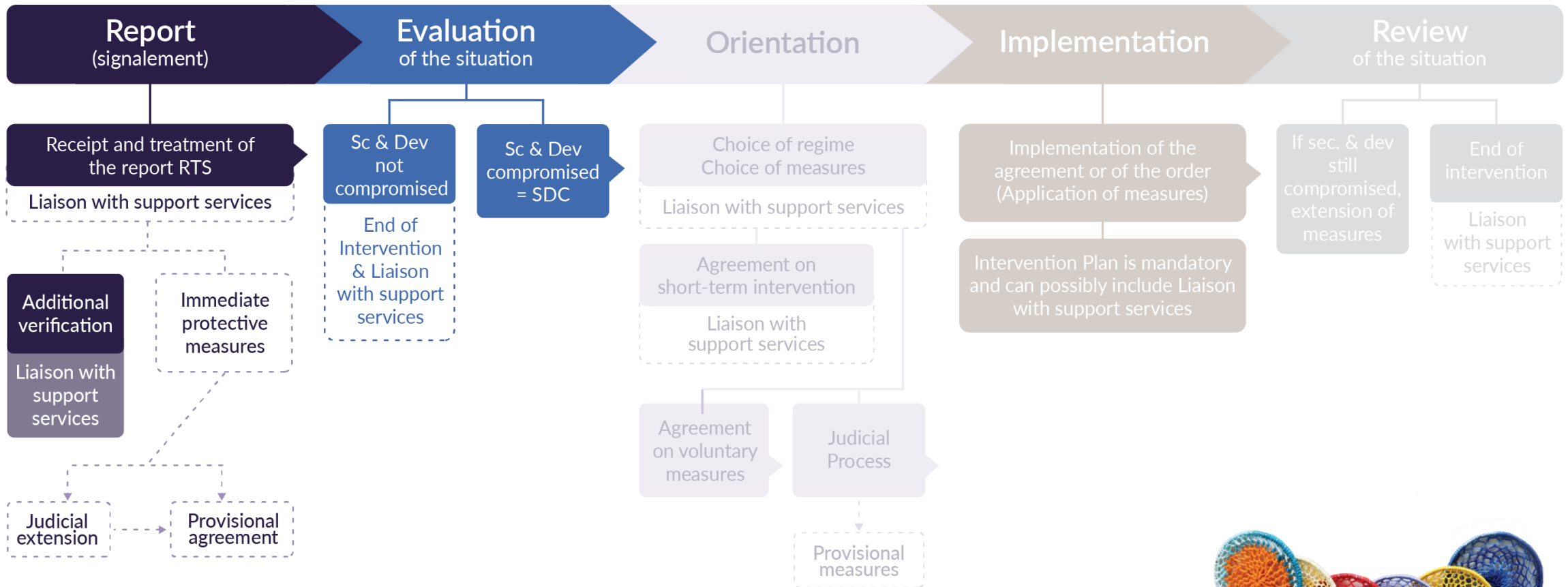
1



Youth Protection Intervention Process

2 - Evaluation

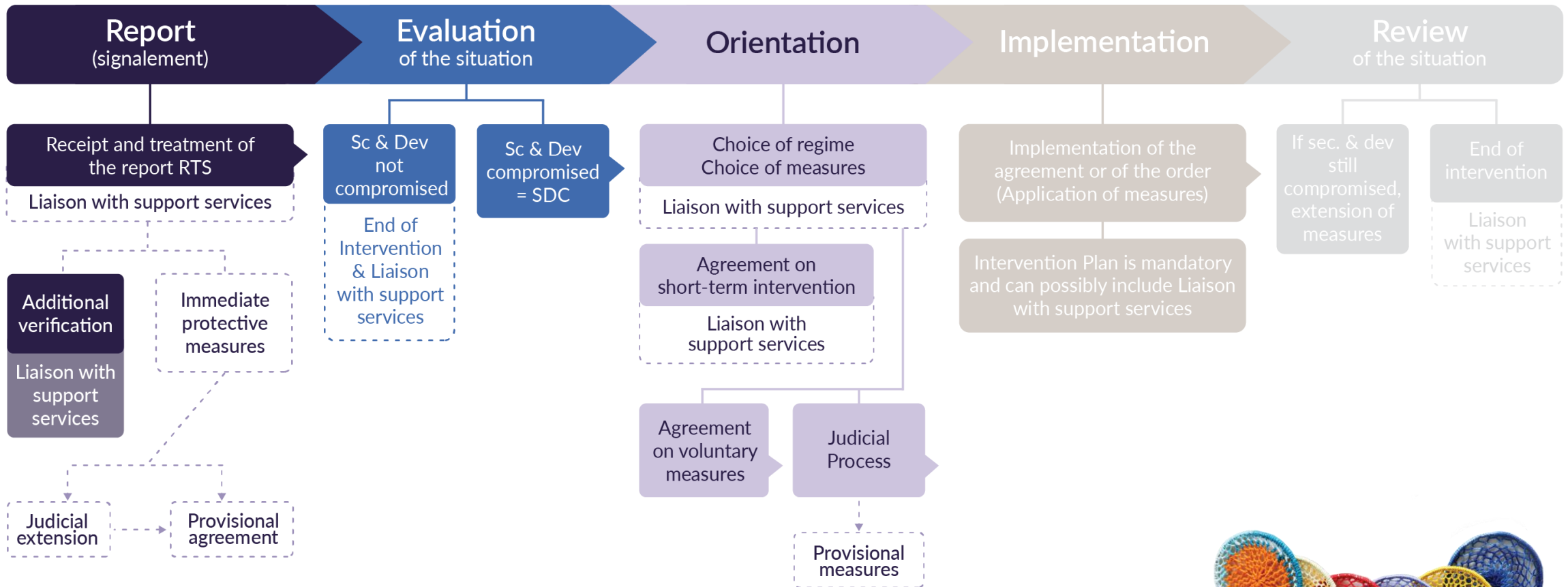
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Youth Protection Intervention Process

3 - Orientation

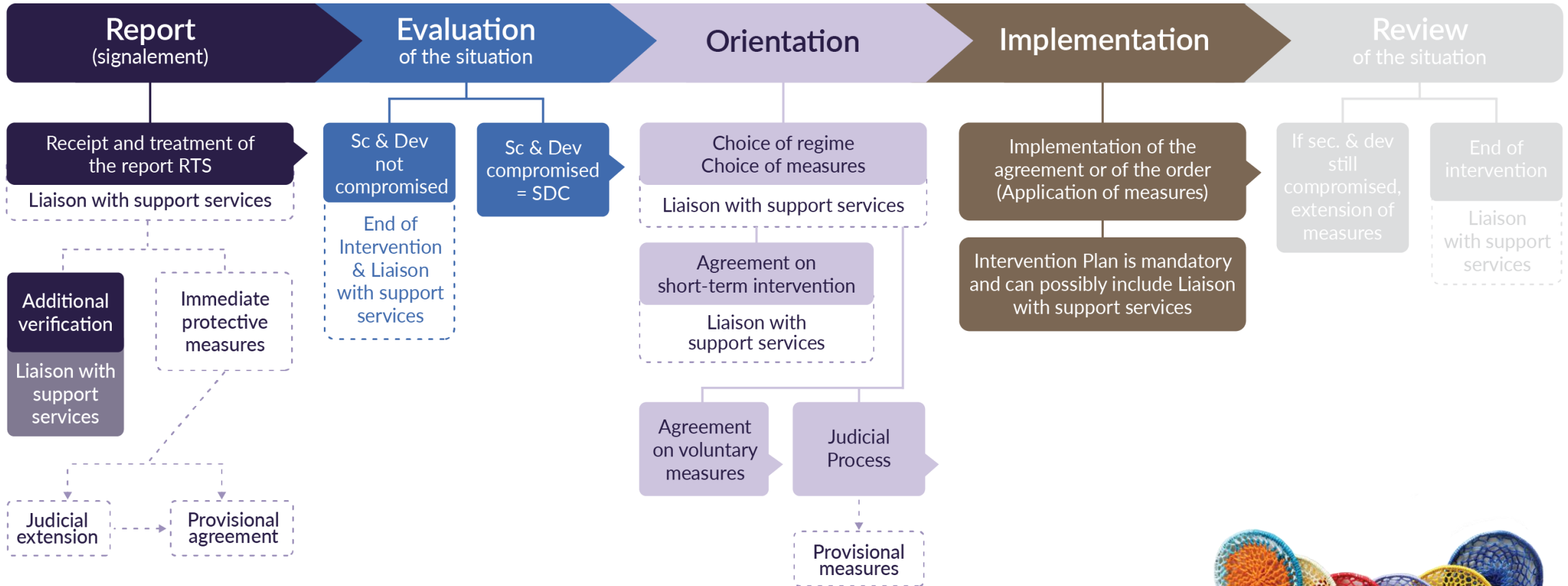
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Youth Protection Intervention Process

4 - Implementation

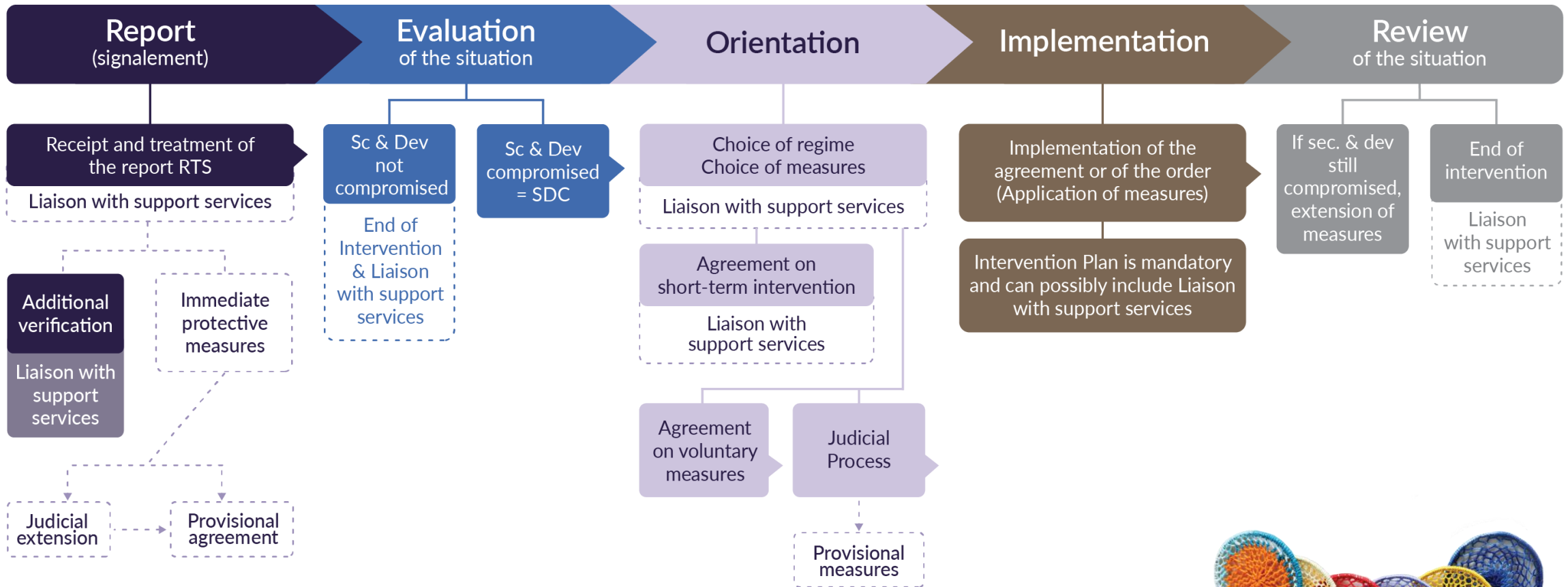
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Youth Protection Intervention Process

5 - Review

5



Is every situation processed in the same way?

No, there are different levels of urgency and need for protection

- Currently, a little less than half of the cases reported to the DYP are retained.
- It does not necessarily mean that these children and these families don't need services: it means that the facts being reported don't justify the very intensive and intrusive YP services.
- The Youth Protection Act is a law of exception and is not meant to answer all the needs of families.
 - *For example, if a father calls for his child to be placed because the mother has gone out and he is feeling overwhelmed, it does not necessarily mean that the YP should place the child.*
- That is why we often refer the callers to first line services.



Is every situation processed in the same way?

No, there are different levels of urgency and need for protection

- Sometimes, it is the opposite: the situation is so serious that we need to step in right away and apply what is called immediate protective measures. That can include removing a child from the parent's care and placing with another relative, or a foster parent or even in Youth Healing Services.
- These measures are only for a very short period but they can be extended if everyone agrees to sign a provisional agreement or by going to court to ask the judge for an interim measure.



Family is the preferred choice but child's interest comes first

Choice #

1

FAMILY

now or as soon
as possible

2

EXTENDED FAMILY

or people who have a
significant bond
with the child

3

**SIMILAR
ENVIRONMENT**

to his family environment
(preserve culture – member of
community/Nation; home
setting versus institution)



Life Plans

- One of the obligations of the DYP is to make sure every child under YP has a safe and secure long term home to grow up in.

- The possible life plans are, in order of preference:

1. Stay within the family circle:

1. *Maintain the child with parents*
2. *Return the child to live with parents as soon as feasible*
3. *Maintain the child with kin*
4. *Return the child with kin*



Life Plans

2. Find a permanent home in another setting:

1. *Entrust or place the child to a significant adult until age of majority*
 2. *Prepare for Adoption (customary or civil)*
 3. *Entrust to a person who exercises tutorship (customary or under YPA)*
 4. *Move to independent living*
 5. *Place in a specialized resource (one which may remain available to the child beyond the age of majority).*
- The YP worker will discuss these plans with the family and the people involved in the child's life in order to come up with the best possible plan.

What information can be shared?

- There are also moments during the intervention when the DYP has the responsibility to access information from the child's file and even the parent's file, to enable the YP worker to better understand the situation and protect the child.



What information can be shared?

- At the various steps of the YP services, rules of confidentiality apply and the consent of parents and youth 14 years old and over is always invited, including what to share with other professionals, as long as it is in the child's interest.



What information can be shared?

- The DYP will not divulge who called them to report a situation. This is to give confidence to children and to concerned adults to feel free to report a situation.



In conclusion, the YP services never work alone

- The Youth Protection Act is called a law of exception. This means that the YP intervention should never be the first choice to keep children safe.
- If the intervention of the YP services is necessary, it should only be for as little time as possible and the plan should be to create a circle of safety around each child, outside of the YP's intervention.

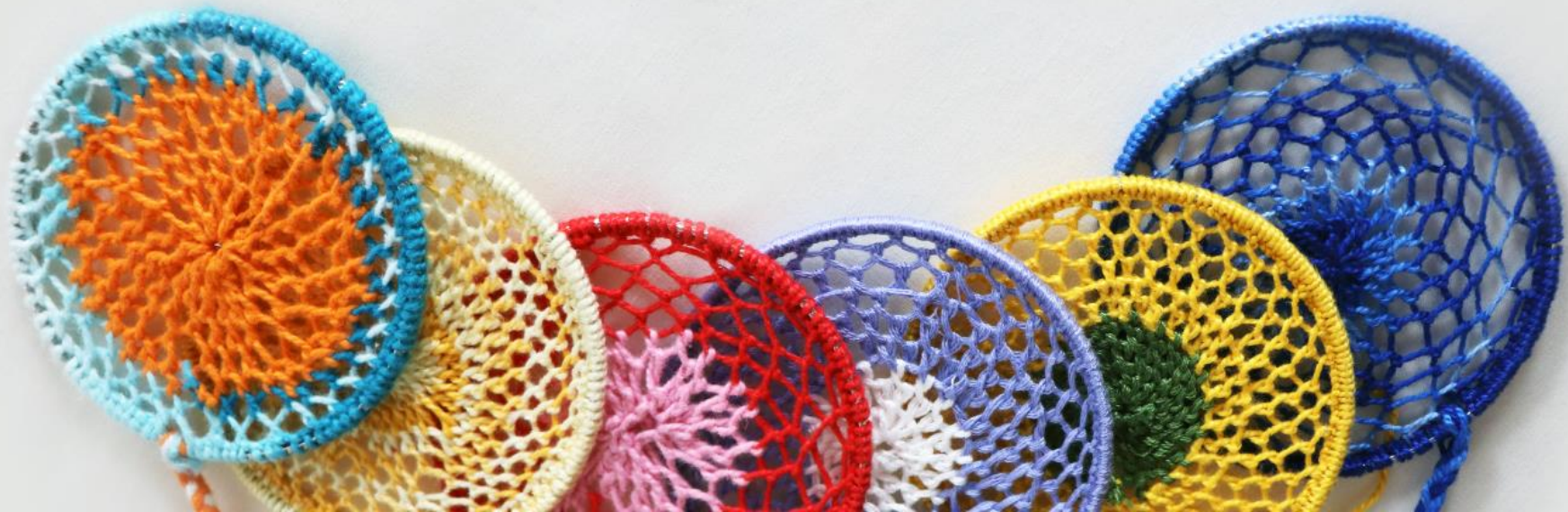


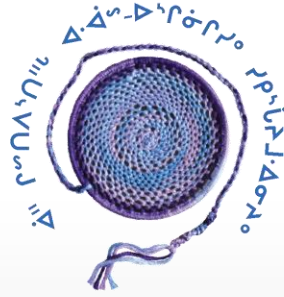
In conclusion, the YP services never work alone

- The only way to prevent situations of neglect, of abuse and even behaviour problems is for everyone to come together and support the youth and the families in the communities.
- All the services in the communities, whether it is business partners; schools; training centres; or specialized services they are all part of this circle of safety and the YP workers need their support and involvement to keep our children safe, and out of Youth Protection.



Our future is determined by how we protect,
provide, care for and nurture our children.





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Cree Youth Protection Commission

chininaaskumitaan, meegwetch, thank you, merci

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