

## Child Safety and Welfare

Parents have the primary responsibility for raising their children, but society also has the responsibility to ensure children are safe and receive necessary care. The Iowa child protective service system (including investigations of abuse and neglect, provision of family-centered services, and provision of foster care and adoptive services) has been under increased financial pressure. Children in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems often become “systems children,” without supportive ties to their communities. As a result, they experience poor educational, social, economic, and justice system outcomes as they transition to adulthood.

*As Governor, what changes will you make to the child welfare and juvenile justice systems to better achieve the goals for those systems of child safety, permanence, and well-being?*



**CULVER:** One of the top predictive indicators of whether a child will enter the adult correctional system is their experience, if any, with the juvenile justice system. Through

Executive Order, I have made reducing ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system a priority and my Administration is working, with measurable success, with the Casey Foundation to tackle these challenges.



**BRANSTAD:** If elected I pledge to work with child welfare advocates and juvenile justice systems to hear their ideas and alternatives to improve the current climate to improve child

safety and well being for those children whose lives are unstable for one reason or another.

Making improvements to the child welfare system is a process that has begun at DHS and needs to continue. DHS has implemented the Parent Partner model in six sites across Iowa. This program partners parents in the child welfare system with those parents who have successfully overcome their troubled pasts. Iowa’s First Lady has also worked hard to promote funding for shelter care.

The budget climate has put a strain on Iowa’s community providers. If the state budget continues to improve as projected, I would support a provider rate increase.