

CHECKLIST

Understanding Male Help-Seeking Behaviors

Recognize your father client's life circumstances, perform outreach, and remove barriers to his meeting with you.

- Consult his caseworker about transportation vouchers or driving services.
- Look into additional services, such as job placement and substance abuse counseling (through the agency or in the community).
- Explain how criminal charges, immigration status, and child support payments may affect the case. Help alleviate any fears the father may have about getting involved because of these issues.

Explain your role in the child welfare system and who you represent.

- Explain to the father that you will advocate for him to your fullest ability.
- Assure him that you do not work for anyone else but him.
- Explain that anything he tells you is confidential (discuss any relevant exceptions).

Use the strengths of traditional masculinity, while addressing self-defeating beliefs about getting help.

- Discuss with the father his beliefs about what it means to be a good man and father.
- Help him understand how a father's absence affects a child's life and the positive impact when a father is present and involved with his child.

Address any negative biases you might have about fathers.

- Be open minded and positive with each new father you meet.

Learn and practice male-friendly rapport-building tactics.

- Greet your client with a firm handshake and sit side-by-side rather than face-to-face.
- Share a little bit about your own life and background.
- Discuss important events in his community.

Download this and other checklists at www.fatherhoodqc.org/checklists

