Title 22 M.R.S. 4007(3) & M.R. Civ. P. 35 authorizes an examination of a parent involved in the family court. The only family court evaluations that SFS conducts are parenting capacity as authorized under this statute.

## What is a parenting capacity evaluation?

## What referral questions will be answered?

- A narrow and objective evaluation that assesses:
  - Parent or caregiver capacity to provide safety to their child
  - Risk and protective factors that may or may not influence child maltreatment
- Provides tailored recommendations for interventions and services

- 1. What factors may increase or decrease the risk of future child abuse or neglect?
- 2. What are the appropriate interventions that may reduce the risk and facilitate safety?
- 3. What is the parent or caregiver's capacity to safely care for the child/ren?

## When is it appropriate to refer to SFS?

Cases that are considered complex which can include (but not limited to):

- Multiple failed attempts at intervention
- Lack of effective progress in the child protection case
- Significant history of involvement in the child welfare system

#### What does SFS need to know and have?

- A court order for a parenting capacity evaluation
  - Scan the QR code below to review the specially drafted court order form with SFS-specific program needs & requirements
- A copy of the Finding of Jeopardy
- A copy of the Docket Record



## In order to make a referral:

Email the court order, Finding of

# For further assistance or consultation, please contact:

Dr. Chrissy Young