

The following are a couple of points I would like to make as to my experience in Eldorado.

- One of my previous jobs was of a CPS worker. When I first heard of what was going on with CPS in Eldorado, I actually thought that my past experience would prepare me for what I was about to face. After all CPS only removes children you are abused or neglected. After my arrival there and an opportunity to see the Mothers and children interact it was obvious that this was not handled like a "typical" case. Children were well behaved, healthy, loved and under the circumstance in good spirits, playing, curious, engaging. An investigation was not conducted prior to the removal of the children and ALL children were removed not just the ones in who could be possibly abused.
- The first statements we heard concerning the Mothers and children were that they were not going to be open to us, they would not be approachable and that if we attempted to engage the children the only response we would receive from the children would be "not without my lawyer". This was completely opposite to our actual encounters. The Mothers and children, although cautious at first, did interact Mothers would have conversations with us and the children would play with us.
- Our roles became that of confidant and a broker (of sorts) between the Mothers and CPS. For example:
 - A Mother wanted to peel and cut into small pieces an apple for her toddler, CPS stated no. I then went to inquire they were resistant but stated the knife would be given only to me to peel and cut the apple. The knife was my responsibility. There had not been any evidence that any of the Mothers would hurt themselves and especially not their children.
 - Another incident involved a pair of scissors. The Mother wanted the pair to be able to cut yarn for a project (to make a Cheero's Necklace) for the children to be entertained. The same procedure was followed as with the knife.
 - A Mother had asked if she could cover her infants play pin, in which he was taking a nap, half way with a blanket (it was very thin blanket). She stated that he had not been able to take his naps and rest due to the lights. CPS told me no, that it was a health hazard.
- The Mothers repeatedly during their first couple of days upon arrival to the coliseum were asking to allow their children to play outside they were repeatedly denied access.