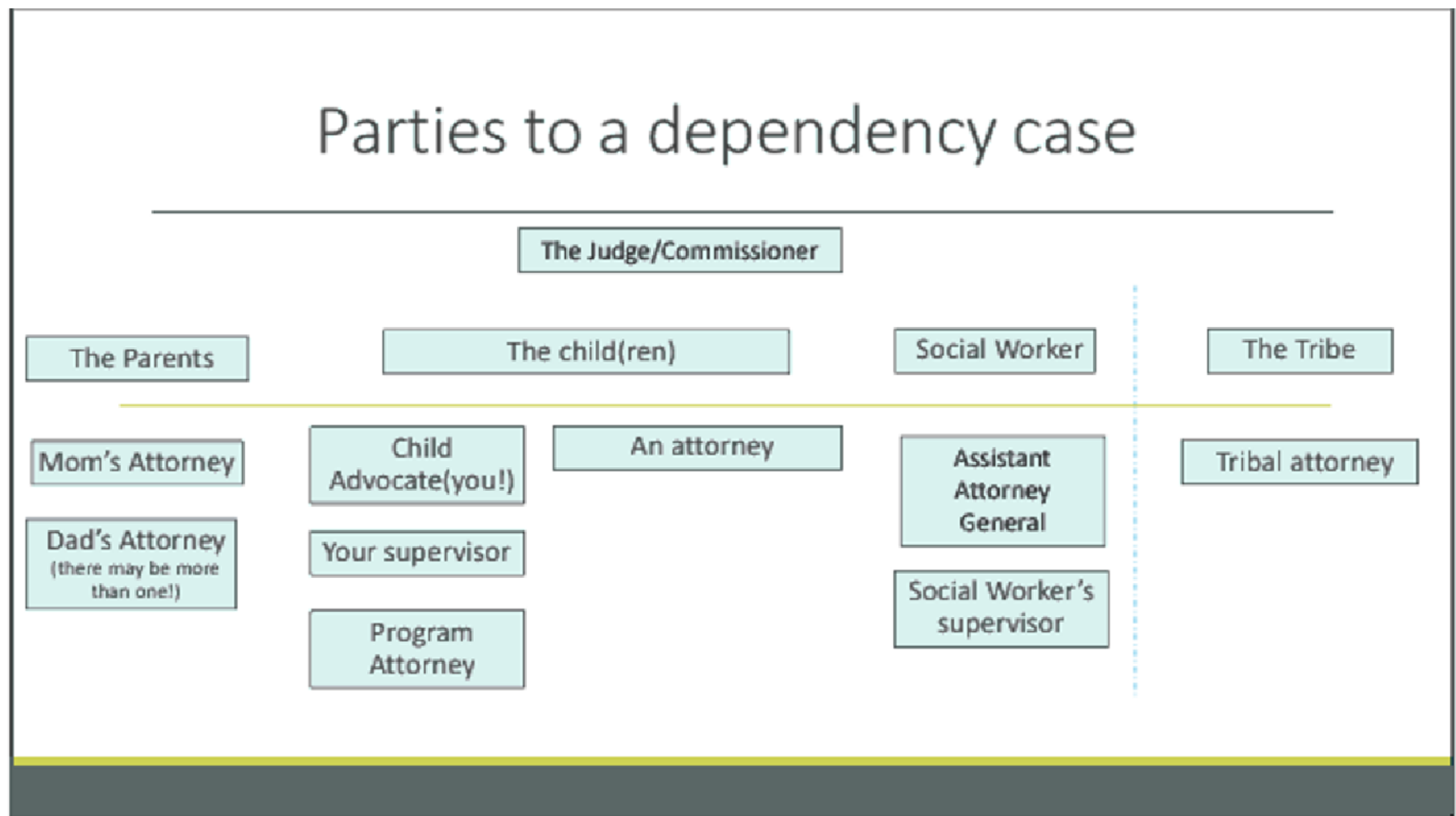




Child Advocacy Training Napkin Visuals

from training manual 4



Who you will be working with

The Judge presides over all court hearings, and is the final decision maker when it comes to “best interests of the child” determinations.

Ultimately, the Judge has the final say in all the decisions made about the case.

When there is a disagreement between the parties in the case, the parties come to court and ask the Judge to make the decision.

Judge or Commissioner

Who you will be working with

DCYF SOCIAL WORKER

Arranges and oversees all services for the parents and children.

Develops a case plan to maintain parent-child relationship, including timelines and who will provide or pay for services.

Also develops a concurrent case plan for alternative permanency for the child should reunification not prove successful.

Arranges for visitation between the parent and child and sibling visits.

Finds a place for the child to live when the child can't be safely placed with a parent.

Communicates with parents and child's caregiver about child.

Reports to the court on how the case progresses.

Recommends to the court what should happen in the case regarding the child's placement, services, and visitation.

REPRESENTED BY:

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL[AAG]

Represents the DCYF Social

Worker in court and at meetings.

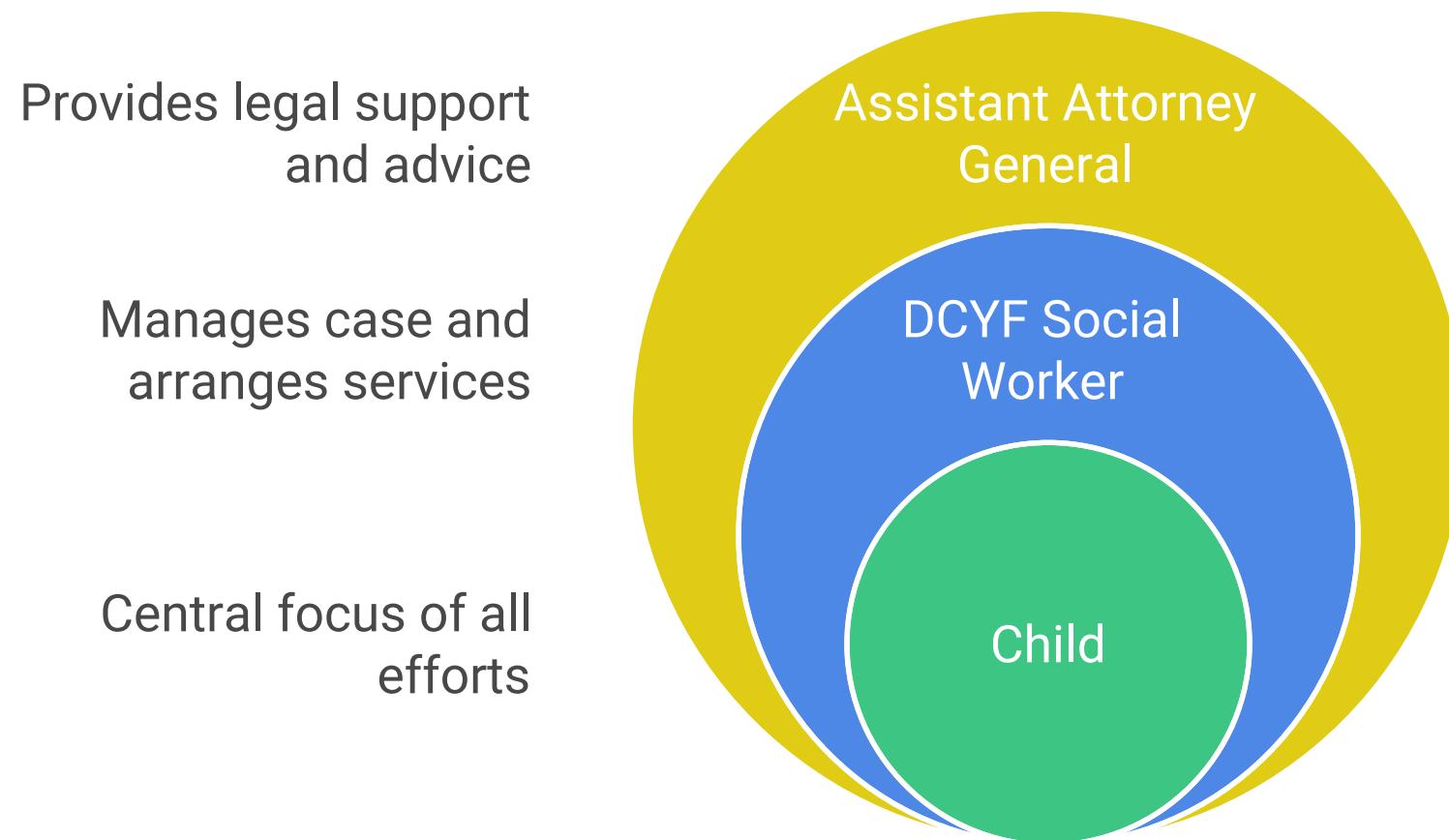
Protects the state from liability.

Advises DCYF and the court regarding legal responsibilities

regarding the child and

parents.65

Child Advocacy Team Structure



Who you will be working with

THE PARENT(S)

Throughout the dependency

case (and particularly in the first year or so of the case)

the court and the department will be asking/ordering the parents to make changes so that their child(ren) may be successfully reunified with them and the case dismissed.

Services, placement of the children, and visitation are the primary areas of focus during dependency, and therefore some of the most contested issues you will be facing.

REPRESENTED BY:

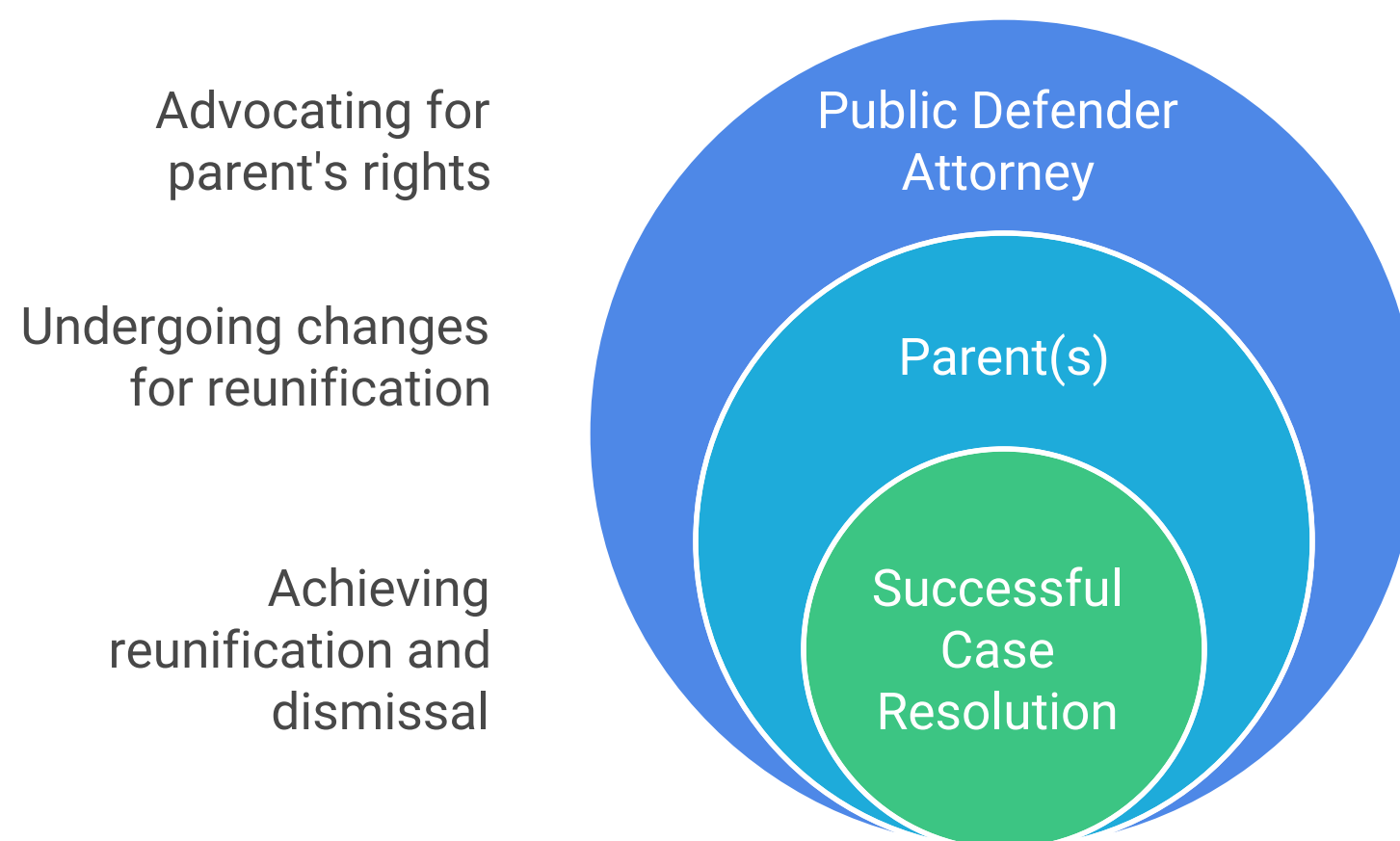
PUBLIC DEFENDER ATTORNEY

The Parent's lawyer represents the parent. Usually mom and dad(s) each have their own separate attorneys.

Besides appearing with the parent in court, they will help parents understand their legal rights, and assist their client in working with you and the social worker towards a successful resolution to the case.

They are expected to zealously and professionally advocate for their client's wishes – even when they may personally disagree.

Child Dependency Case Stakeholders



Who you will be working with

THE CHILD

Kids in dependency range from birth to 18.

Practically speaking, you'll be advocating for a child's (or sibling group's) best interests.

REPRESENTED BY:

YOU (AND THE PROGRAM)

We'll be spending the rest of this training you to become an effective "best interests" advocate for the child.

In some circumstances, the child might also be represented by an attorney as well.

In this case, the child's attorney will represent the child's STATED INTERESTS (ie, what the child wants.) Sometimes best interests and stated interests are complimentary...other times not.

Many (if not most) of the children you will work with have been exposed to some form of trauma. In addition,

removing a child from a parent is traumatic. Many will also be grieving the loss of family throughout this process.

We'll cover these issues in much greater detail later on in the training.

Child Advocacy Structure

Represents child's
stated interests

Primary advocate
ensuring child's well-
being

The ultimate goal of
advocacy



...and sometimes

THE TRIBE

Native American children (and the tribe from which they share an ancestry) have additional rights and protections collectively known as the (ICWA) when they are subject to the dependency process.

In effect, the child’s tribe is given party status in the case, and therefore have equal legal status in the case.

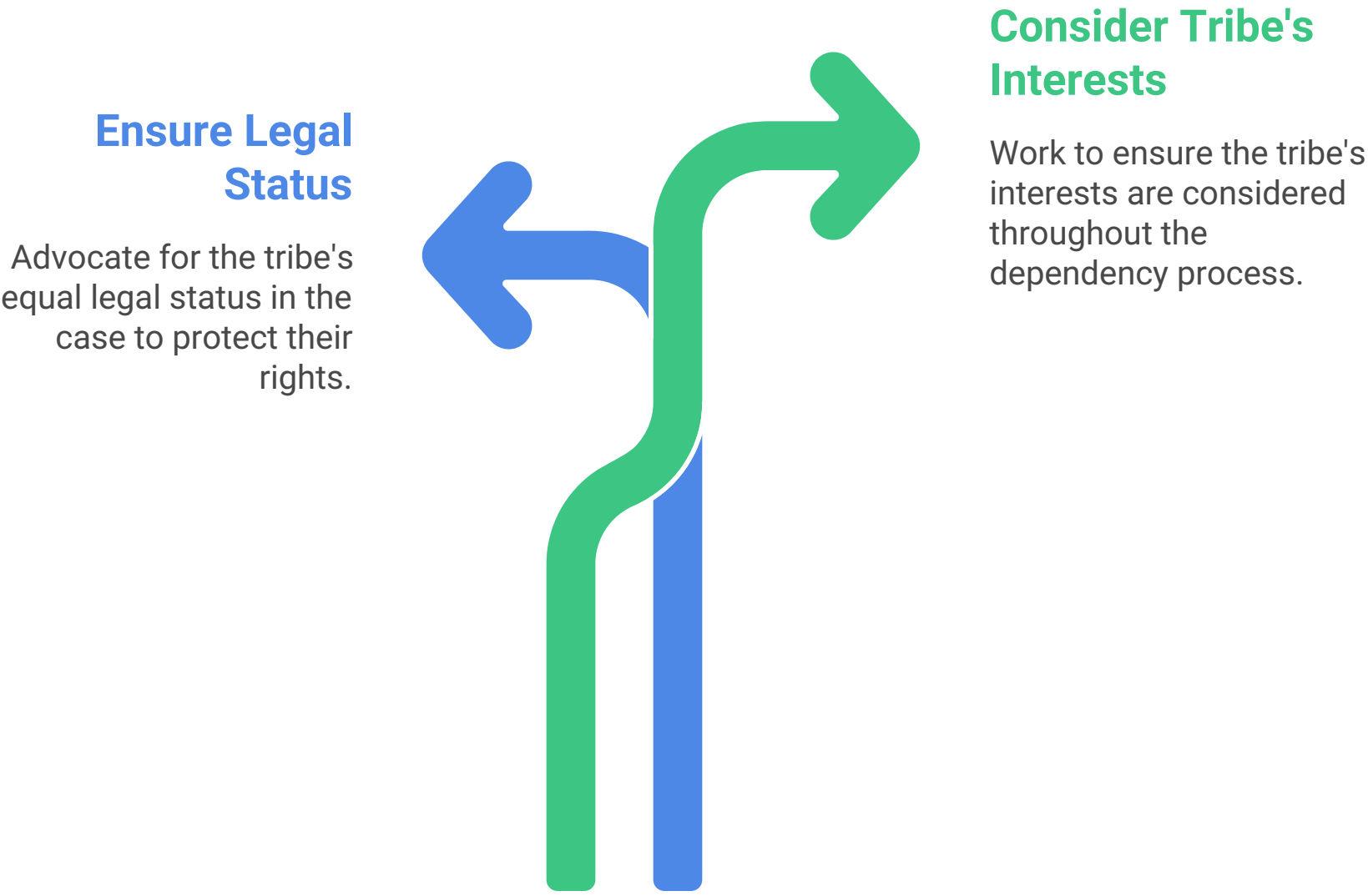
REPRESENTED BY:

TRIBAL ATTORNEY

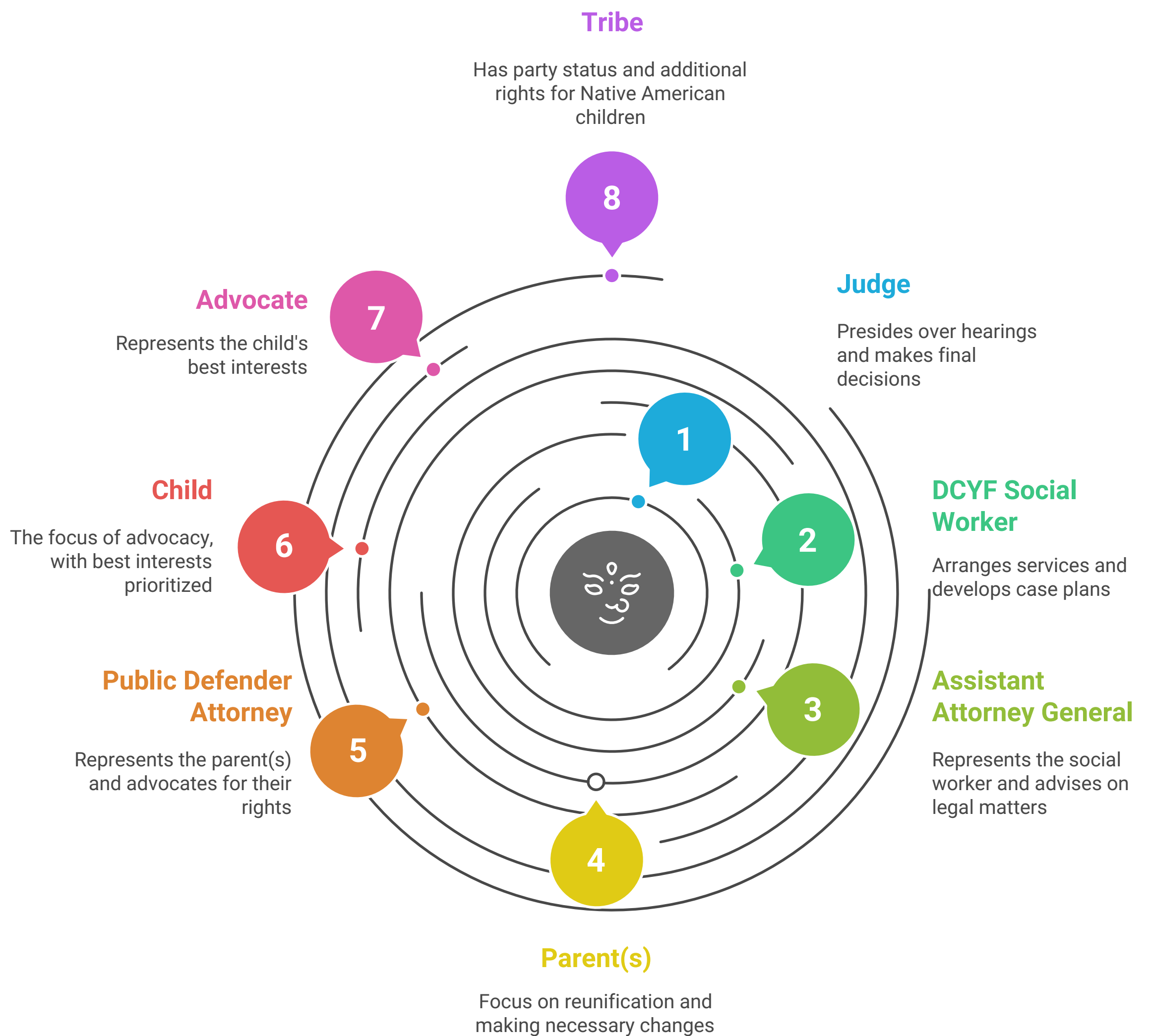
Similar in function to any of the dependency attorneys mentioned previously, the tribe’s attorney represents the child’s tribe.

The tribe’s attorney will work to ensure that tribe’s interests in the case are considered.

How to represent the tribe's interests in the child dependency case?



Key Players in Child Advocacy



Those who are NOT parties

- Foster parents
- Relatives (even if the child is placed with them)
- School personnel
- Non-dependency siblings
- Pre-adoptive caregivers

Why this is important:

CONFIDENTIALITY. You CANNOT share ANY case information with a non-party to the case.

Can case information be shared with this individual?

