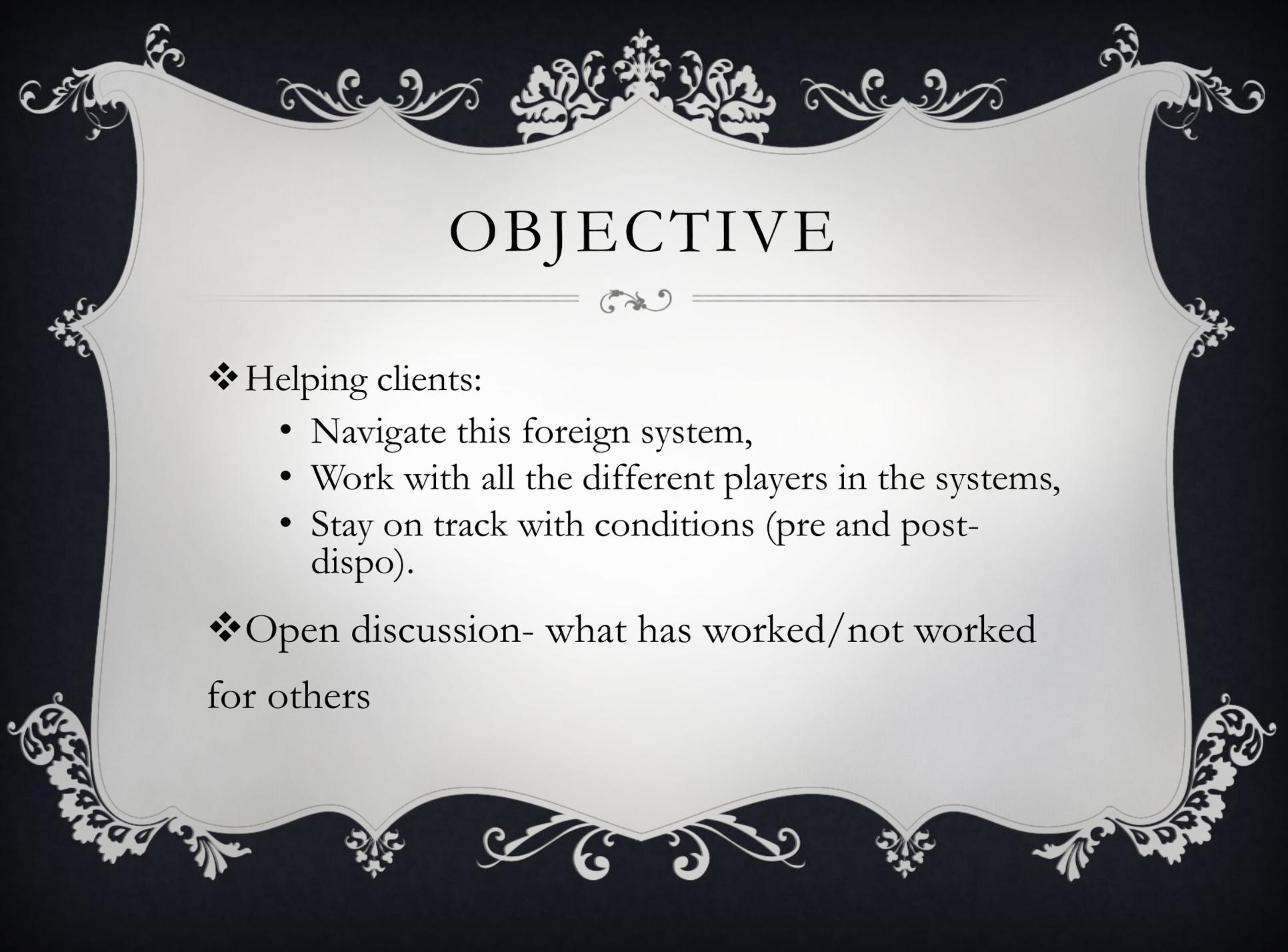




HELPING YOUR CLIENT
NAVIGATE THE SYSTEM

Attorney Trisha Fritz

Staff Attorney- Green Bay Office

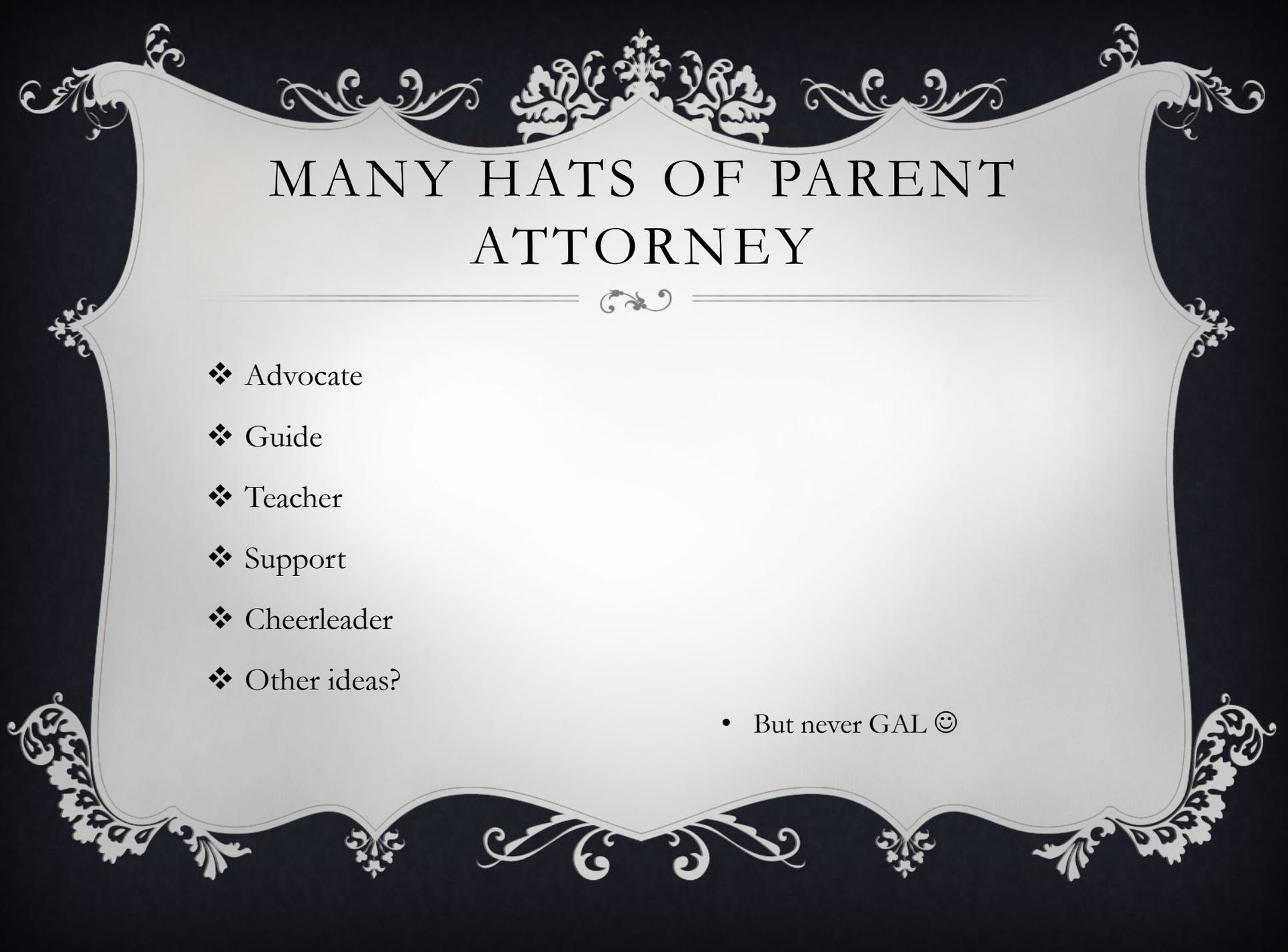


OBJECTIVE

❖ Helping clients:

- Navigate this foreign system,
- Work with all the different players in the systems,
- Stay on track with conditions (pre and post-dispo).

❖ Open discussion- what has worked/not worked for others



MANY HATS OF PARENT ATTORNEY

- ❖ Advocate
- ❖ Guide
- ❖ Teacher
- ❖ Support
- ❖ Cheerleader
- ❖ Other ideas?

- But never GAL ☺



LINGO 4 PARENTS

❖ Ideas:

- Make a cheat sheet for them
- Make sure you're setting aside enough time to discuss everything

WHO IS WHO?

- ❖ Confusion of who is all in court: petitioner, GAL, CASA, parent attorney, etc.
- ❖ Confusion of all the service providers: CW, AODA counselor, Family Support Specialist, etc.
- ❖ Ideas:
 - Make client sheet of providers, ph #, address, etc.
 - Keep a copy for yourself

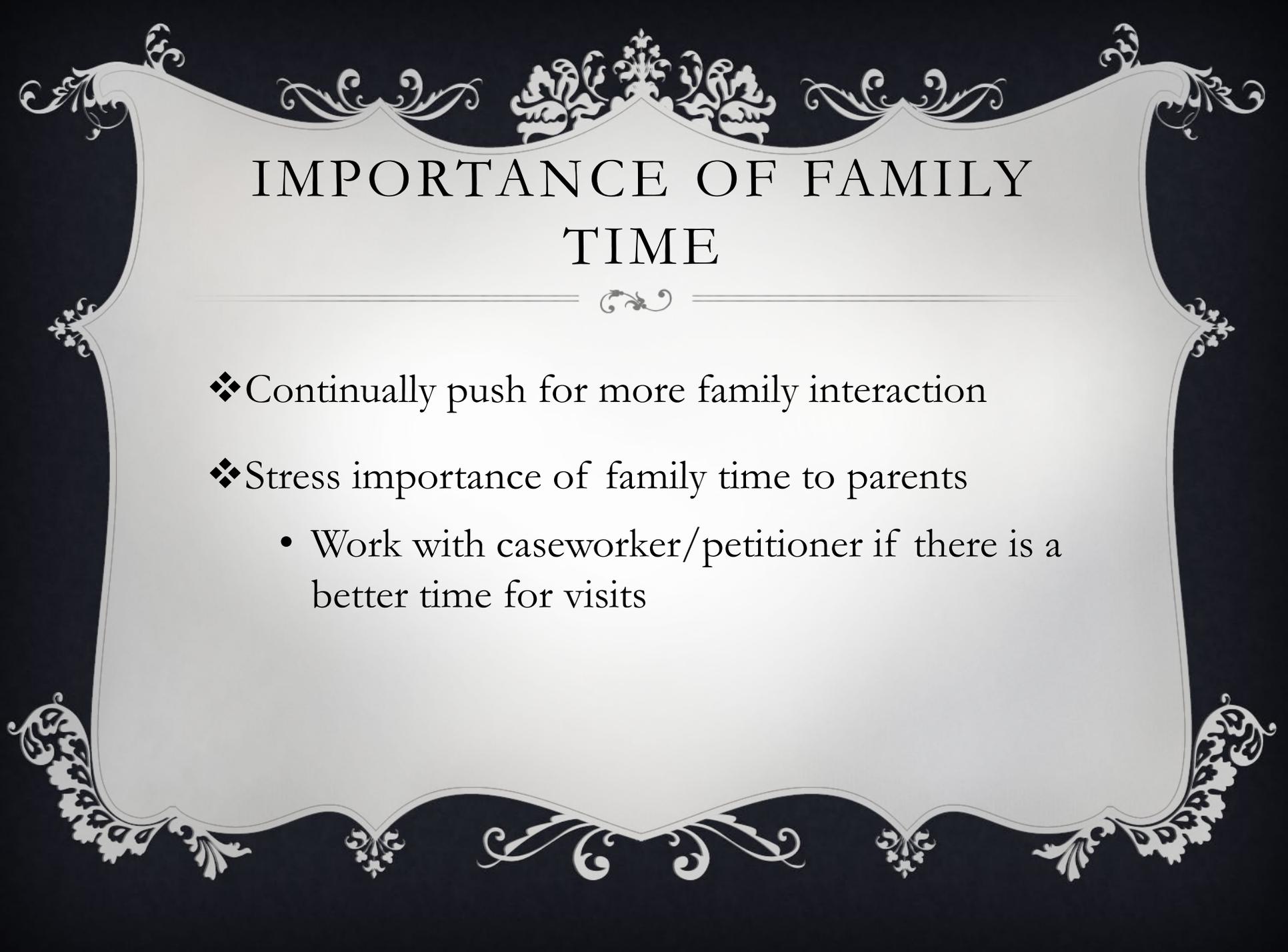
GAL

- ❖ GAL- can be a PAL
- ❖ Early and often communication between
parent/GAL/Parent Attorney



IMPORTANCE OF COURT

- ❖ Have client sign authorization to appear and act immediately
- ❖ Let them know what happens when they fail to appear
- ❖ Text or phone call reminders of court
- ❖ Importance of parent being a part of permanency planning



IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY TIME

- ❖ Continually push for more family interaction
- ❖ Stress importance of family time to parents
 - Work with caseworker/petitioner if there is a better time for visits



KNOW YOUR COMMUNITY RESOURCES

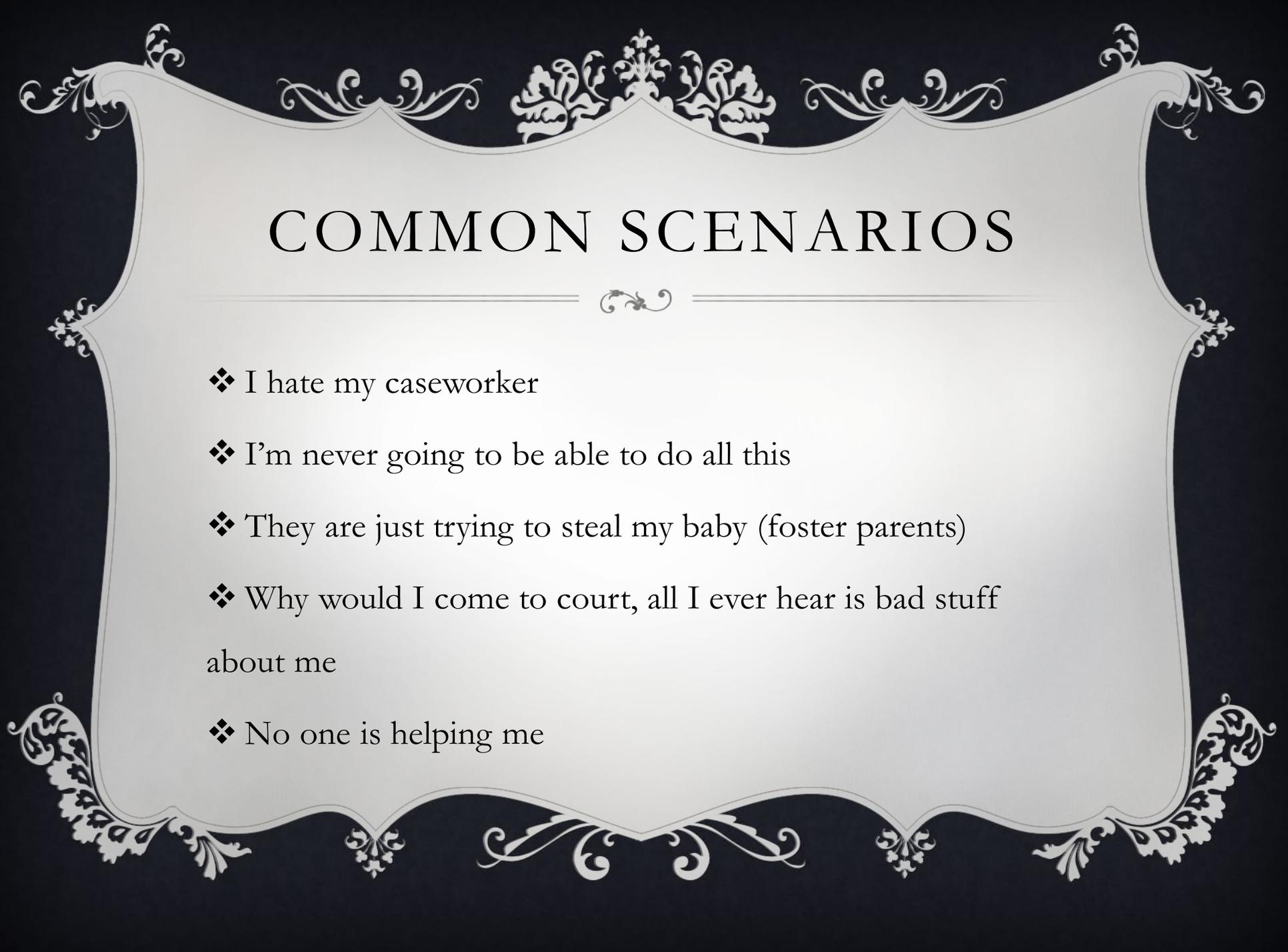
❖ Ideas for attorney:

- Speak with your caseworkers or CHIPS petitioners to get list of services
- Have a good relationship with CW/service providers

❖ Homeless shelters

❖ AODA programming

❖ ADRC



COMMON SCENARIOS

- ❖ I hate my caseworker
- ❖ I'm never going to be able to do all this
- ❖ They are just trying to steal my baby (foster parents)
- ❖ Why would I come to court, all I ever hear is bad stuff about me
- ❖ No one is helping me