***Determination of Findings Matrix***

***Extreme and Severe maltreatment*** will more often than not be “Substantiated or Unsubstantiated”

* In caretaker child abuse neglect cases, if the child enters foster care or a relative placement, the finding should be ***substantiated***.

***Moderate maltreatment*** will need careful consideration of all the facts in order to make a determination.

* Severity of the allegation
* Severity of the risk factors present at assessment:
  + Youngest child’s Age (Chronological and Developmental) the younger the child the more risk
  + Child’s Special needs; medical or physical the more special needs the child has the higher risk
  + Adult Pattern of behavior; repeatedly fails to or refuses to provide care and protection of the child results in higher risk.
  + Physical abuse-level of pain/impairment the child experienced in relation to the incident.
  + Is the severity of the maltreatment enough to warrant placing the perpetrator on the Central Registry or only enough to open a case and provide services?
  + History (prior substantiated reports CPS/APS and/or court involvement) an escalating pattern is higher risk
  + Failure to follow current prevention or aftercare planning that resulted in abuse, neglect to the child.
  + ***CONSULT WITH YOUR FSOS***. All findings should be discussed with your supervisor.
* Findings should usually match court findings, per SOP 2.12
* Status/Dependency/Non Caretaker Human Trafficking cases: If the allegations are found to be true, these cases will ***ALWAYS*** have a finding of Family in Need of Services, even if the child enters foster care.

***Low level maltreatment*** will more often than not be “In Need of Services or Not in Need of Services”