



Representing the child and defending its interests

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Conference on handling child evidence within the framework
of a child-friendly justice system

Council of Europe – Council of the Baltic Sea States

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UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND
FACULTY OF LAW



Aim of presentation

Outline how Iceland secures support for children as victims of serious abuse in order to ensure their participation or involvement in the necessary procedures.

- what is participation / involvement and representation?
- how we ensure access to justice systems
- how we ensure involvement in justice systems
- critical thoughts





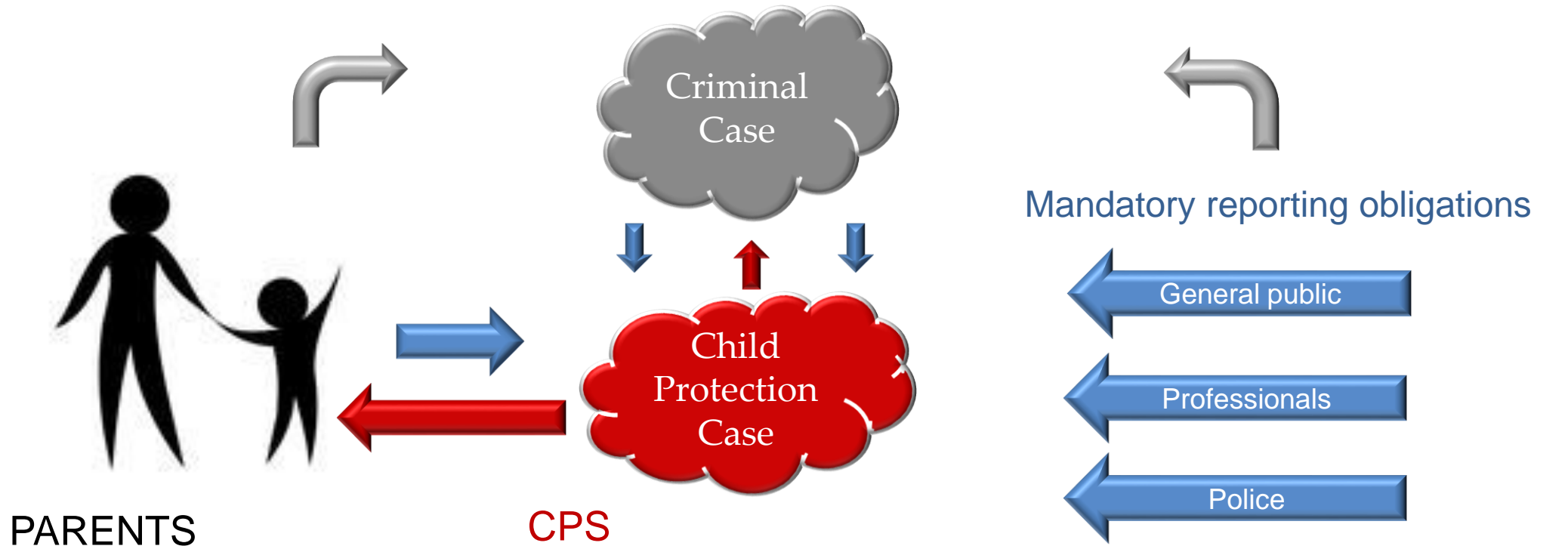
Participation and representation

- Participation – art. 12 CRC
 - the right to be informed
 - the opportunity to speak
 - the demand to be heard
 - = involved in the whole process
- Representation
 - ensure involvement
 - strengthen involvement
 - empowerment





Iceland – access to justice



PARENTS

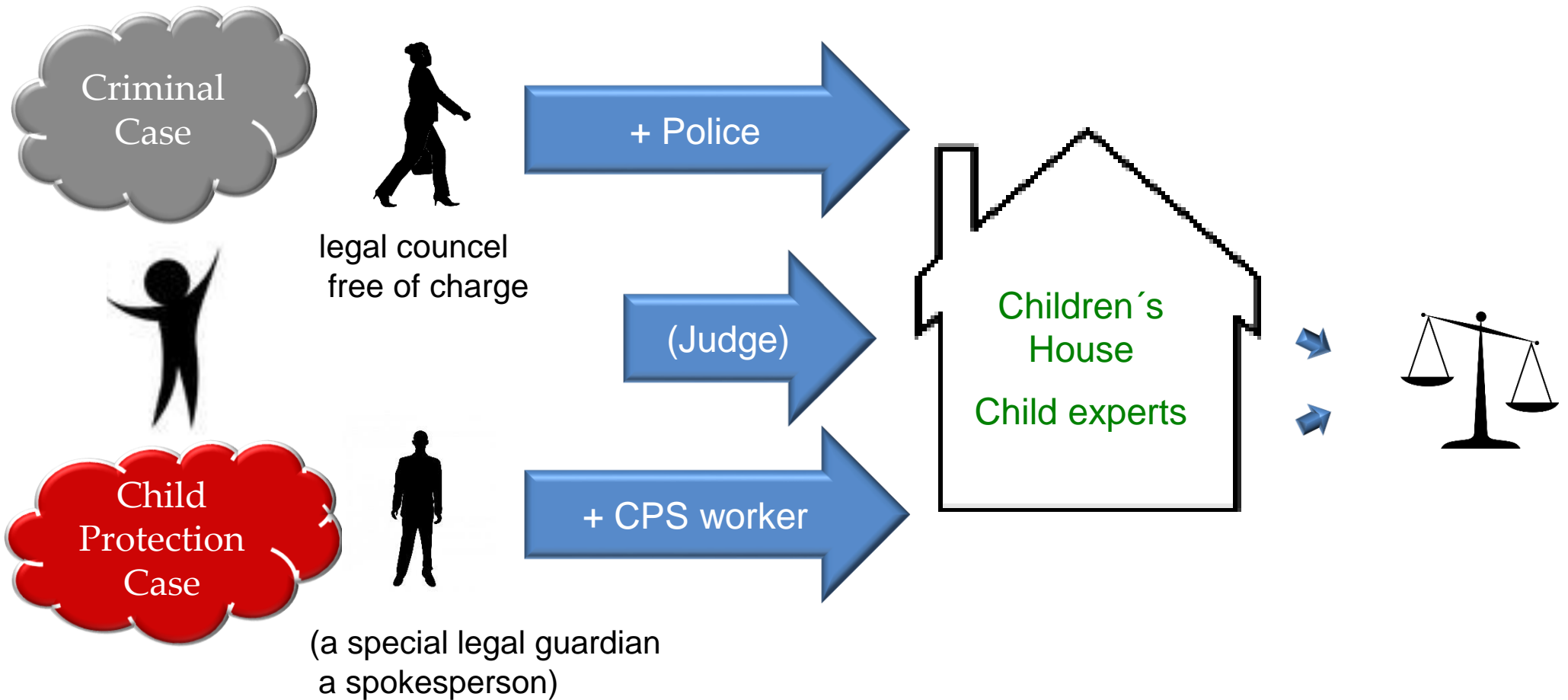
- Art. 5 CRC
- Parental responsibility
- Legal guardians
- Best interests of the child

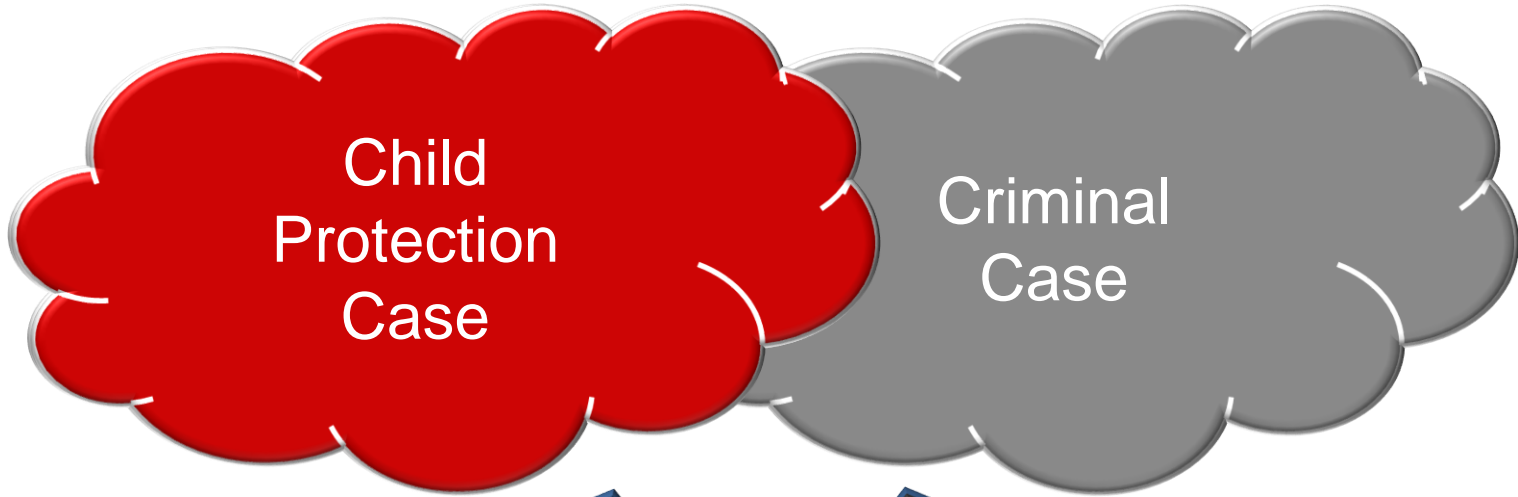
CPS

- conduct CPS investigation
- request assistance from Children's House
- refer the case to the police for a parallel police investigation
- can ensure interview of child without parental knowledge and consent
- can remove the child from home and assume responsibilities



Iceland – involvement in justice







Ensuring involvement - empowerment

- who gives me information?
when, how, about what ...
 - whom do I speak to?
when, where, how, about what ...
 - who weighs my opinions?
 - who gives me feedback?
- = **manage complex relationships**





Thank you



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