

## CANS Fact Sheet #2-Post Implementation

for Local Department of Social Services Staff (LDSS) only...

### *What you may not know about the DSS-Enhanced CANS and how it can help you*

Why do we have a DSS-Enhanced CANS? What's different about it that can be especially useful to you in your work as a Family Services Specialist (e.g., a foster care worker)?

Several significant changes were made to the CANS based on feedback from LDSS and implemented when CANVaS 2.0 was launched in February 2017. But you may not yet be fully aware of all these changes and how they can support your work as a local DSS case manager.

First, a couple of quick reminders: Be sure to certify or recertify (when due) on the DSS-Enhanced version of the Virginia CANS on the CANS training website ([www.tcomtraining.com](http://www.tcomtraining.com)).

Next, when you are ready to do an assessment for a child with whom you work, make sure the child's profile page reflects that "DSS" is the referral source. If a referral source has not been selected, click "Edit" and select "DSS" from the drop-down box. ***This will guide you to the correct version of the CANS.***

But the most dramatic differences are in how you can use the Caregiver Assessment to help support your service planning and decisions. So, please read the following to learn more...

### How to Rate the Caregiver(s)

One of the more significant changes to the CANS for DSS is improving user ability to appropriately rate up to three individual caregivers for a child. Parents/Guardians and Caregivers are rated on the *Caregiver Assessment* which consists of the *Parent/Guardian Strengths and Needs Domain* and the new *Child Welfare Module*.

Rating CANS for caregivers for families involved in the child welfare system has not been well understood in the past and now with the changes, it should be easier to rate a previous or potential caregiver's ability to care for a child.

One common misconception is that there is no caregiver if the child is in the custody of LDSS, or that only the child's current caregiver (e.g., foster parent) is rated. Unfortunately, this assumption defeats the purpose of having the Caregiver Assessment.

***The intent of the Caregiver Assessment is to evaluate the progress or lack of progress of the previous or potential caregivers in resolving issues which prevent the child from placement (e.g., returning home) and to document why the child can or cannot be placed with that caregiver.*** Accurately rating the caregiver assists in making service decisions. For example, if the parent rates "2"s and "3"s on critical items such as "Knowledge of the child's needs" or "Residential Stability" return home may not yet be appropriate. Or, if the parent/caregiver is rating "0"s or "1"s on many items, the assessment provides documentation that indicates the parents may be ready for return home. Lastly, if the

assessments repeatedly indicate lack of progress, or regression (see the *“Permanency Report”* information in the next section), the agency has documentation which supports the decision to place the child with a relative or move to TPR/Adoption.

When children are removed from their families by LDSS, the initial goal is reunification. Therefore, the child’s parent(s) should always be rated on the caregiver assessment. Anyone who is a potential caregiver for the child may be rated. The ability to rate multiple caregivers supports the DSS effort to concurrently plan for permanency for children by rating not only the parents, but relatives, fictive kin, and or prospective foster/adoptive families.

**\*\*\*IMPORTANT \*\*\*** Rate each past or potential caregiver separately as if the item only applies to that person. Some of the questions are historical; others refer to the last thirty days. Often the next question is - “How can I rate the last 30 days for the caregiver if the child has been in foster care?” Or “How can I rate this caregiver if the child has never lived with them?”

The caregiver assessment is about the caregiver’s situation, not the child’s and about how this individual could care for this child. *Rate this caregiver as if you were planning to place the child with that person within the next 30 days.* Assess the caregiver’s current strengths and needs. For example, what is the condition of the *caregiver’s* home? Is the caregiver working well with you as the case manager to make it possible for the child to be placed with him or her? Is the caregiver visiting the child?

Print the *Caregiver Strength and Needs* items and the *Child Welfare Module* items and rating definitions. (See separate attachment.) As the instructions indicate, rate each item for that particular caregiver. If it helps, substitute the caregiver’s name for the “parent” referenced in each item. The term “parent/caregiver/guardian” was too unwieldy to put in each definition, thus, as indicated in the instructions, substitute the name of the caregiver whom you are rating.

### *Permanency Report*

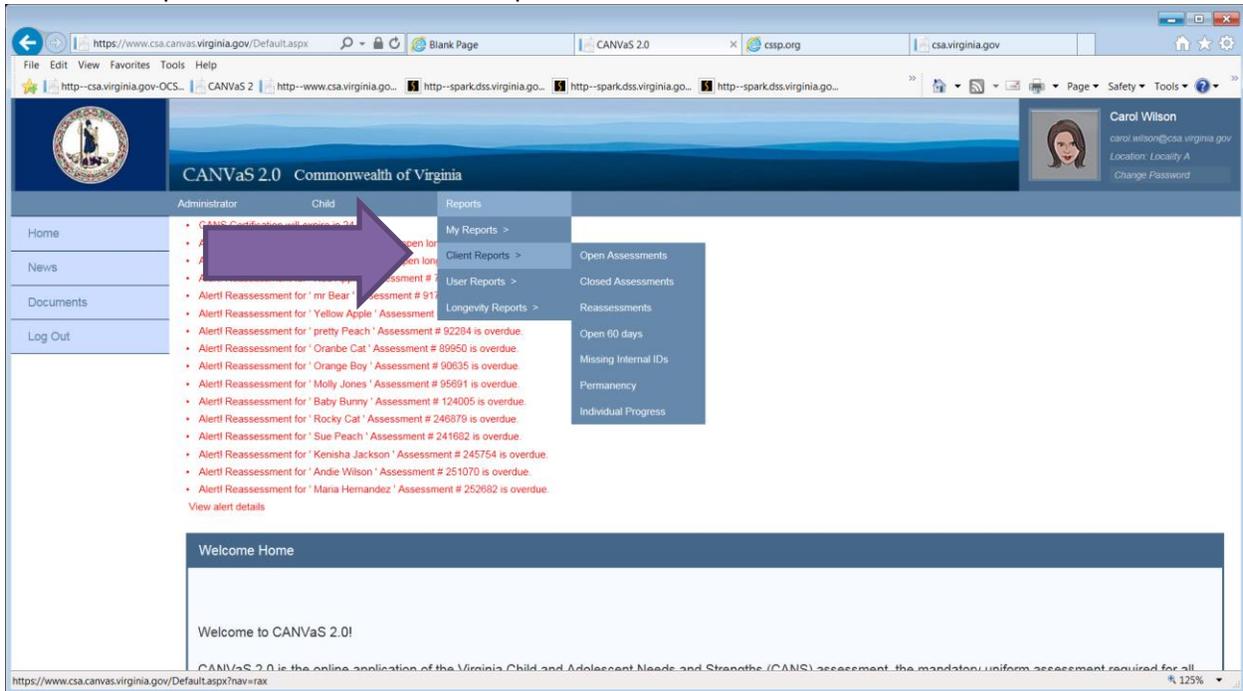
Each caregiver has a Permanency Report which compiles and organizes the ratings on up to three sequential assessments over time. The report is organized by Protective Factors ([Strengthening-Families-Protective-Factors.pdf](#)) and Safety Domains and provides a way to measure a caregiver’s success over time in meeting the goals for return home or placement. It is a helpful tool to look at progress “at a glance” and to share with the parent/caregiver. Case managers may access the Permanency Report for any child for whom the case manager has done an assessment, even if that case manager did not do the previous assessments. Local Administrators (DSU/RAs) may also access the Permanency Report.

To find the Permanency Report, log in to CANVaS, click on “Reports” then “Client Reports” then “Permanency.” Enter the child’s last name in the report drop-down box; then select which caregiver you wish to review. Click “View Report”.

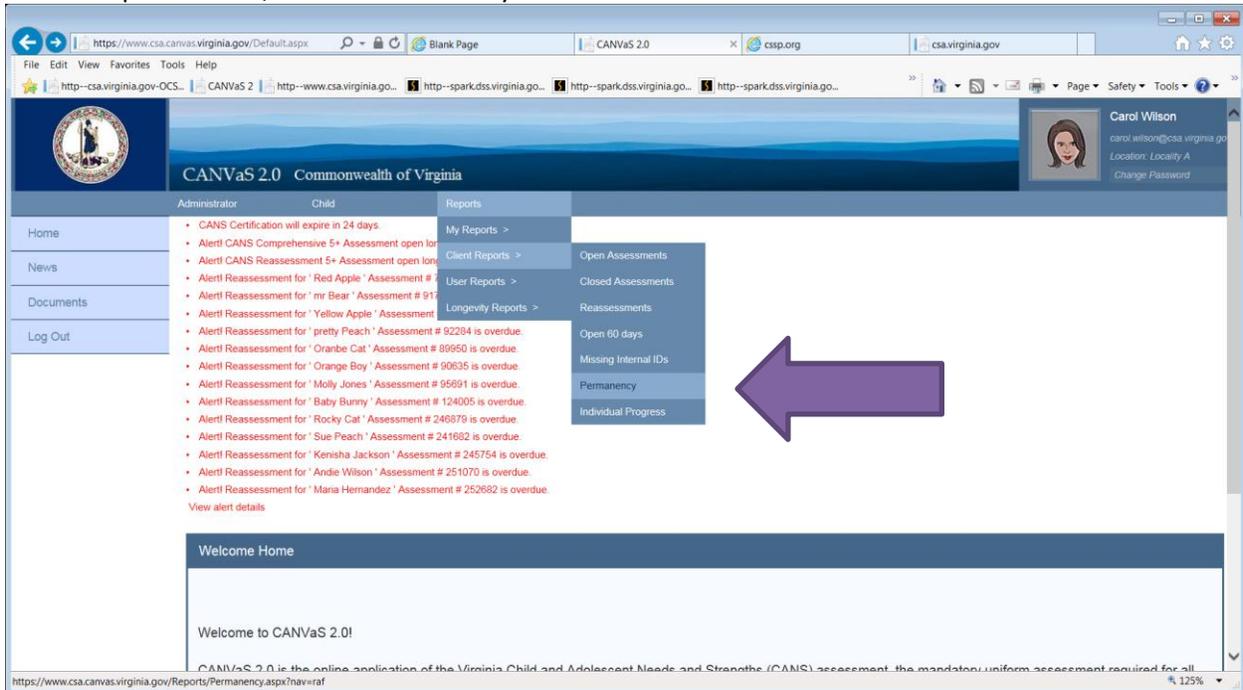
The following pages provide screenshots of how to access the Permanency Report. NOTE: All children and caregiver names as well as assessment information shown are fictitious.

Log into CANVaS 2.0

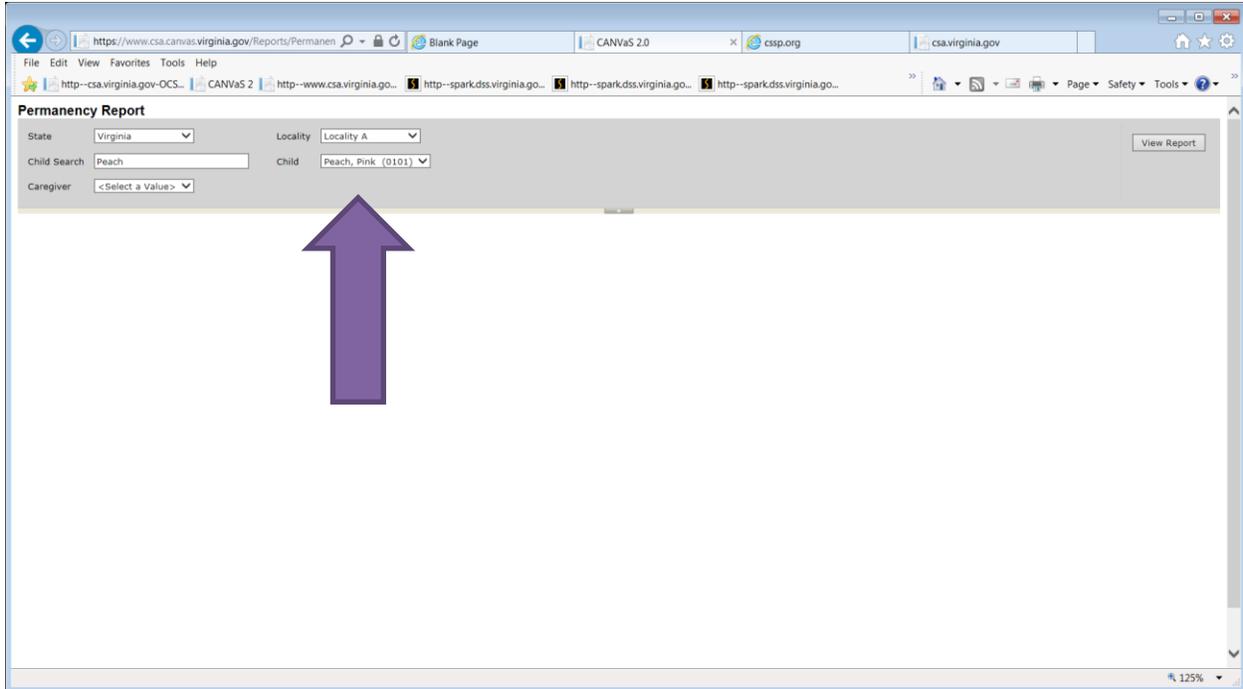
From the "Reports" Menu select "Client Reports"



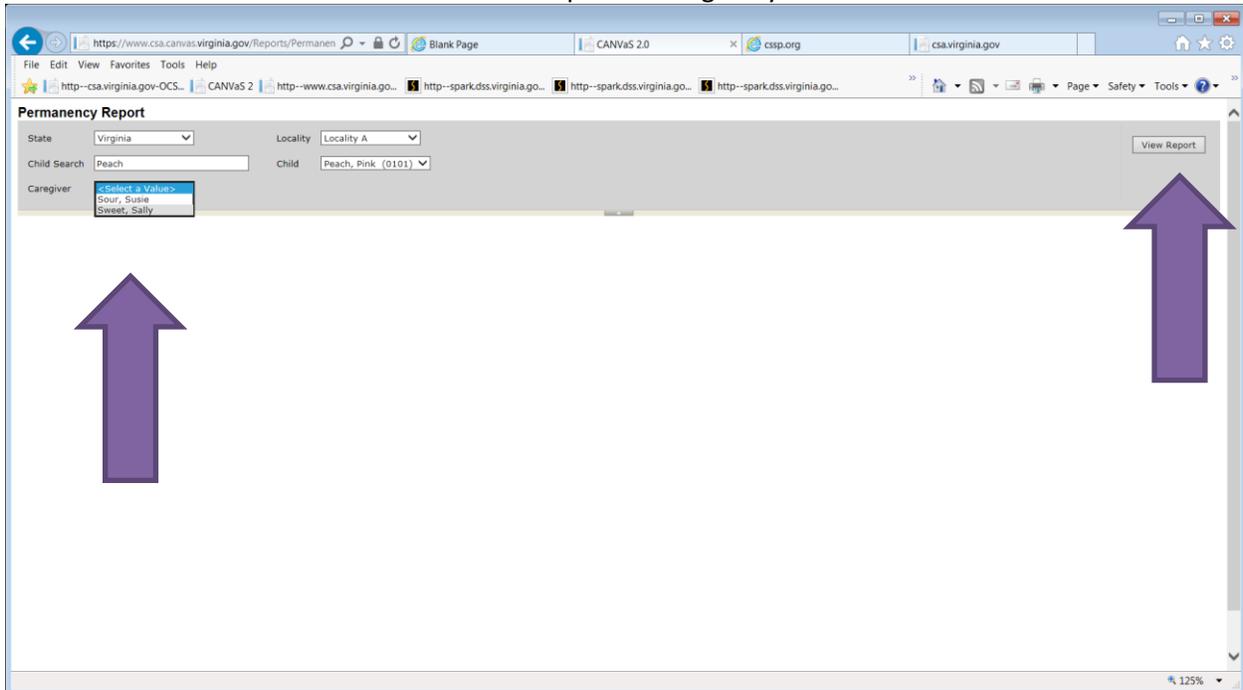
In the drop-down box, select "Permanency"



On the Permanency Report page, type in the last name of the child for whom you wish to see a caregiver report. Click on the down arrow next to “child.” You will see a list of children who have that last name for whom you have done an assessment. Click on the name of the identified child.



Under “Select a Value” select the name of the specific caregiver you wish to see for that child.



**IMPORTANT:** Click “View Report” in the upper right hand corner of the screen.

The report will appear. Below is the first page.

Child Name: PINK PEACH  
DSS ID #: 234  
Caregiver Name: SALLY SWEET  
Caregiver Relationship: Mother

**Notes:**

This report will enable the user to examine the Parent/Caregiver assessment across time. The user will be able to generate this report for any child on their caseload with closed assessments.

Safety			
Question	CANS Reassessment - 5+ 02/20/2017	CANS Comprehensive - 5+ 04/03/2017	CANS Reassessment - 5+ 07/08/2017
SUPERVISION	1	0	2
SAFETY	2	0	3
CONDITION OF THE HOME	2	0	3
MARITAL/PARTNER VIOLENCE IN HOME	2	0	2
HISTORY OF MALTREATMENT	1	1	1
RESPONSIBILITY IN MALTREATMENT	1	0	1
RELATIONSHIP WITH ABUSER	1	0	2

Knowledge of Parenting & Child Development			
Question	CANS Reassessment - 5+ 02/20/2017	CANS Comprehensive - 5+ 04/03/2017	CANS Reassessment - 5+ 07/08/2017
KNOWLEDGE	1	0	2
DISCIPLINE	1	0	1
FAMILY STRESS	2	0	2
EFFECTIVE PARENTING APPROACHES	1	0	2
PARENT'S UNDERSTANDING OF IMPACT OF OWN BEHAVIOR ON CHILDREN	1	0	2
EMPATHY WITH CHILDREN	1	0	2

There are three pages which measure specific items in an area of strengths or needs organized by “Safety” and specific “Protective Factors”. The last page (below) provides a summary of items which have resolved in the last rating period, as well as items rated “2” or “3” which require intervention.

Report Date: 08/21/2017 11:40 AM  
CANVAS 2.0 Permanency Report  
Pink Peach  
Page: 4 of 4

**Issues Resolved in Most Recent Period (Change from 2 or 3 to 0 or 1)**

**Issues Requiring Continued Intervention**

**Most Recent Rating of 3**

- SAFETY - Safety
- CONDITION OF THE HOME - Safety
- SOCIAL RESOURCES - Identification and Use of Concrete Supports in Time of Need
- RESIDENTIAL STABILITY - Identification and Use of Concrete Supports in Time of Need
- TRANSPORTATION - Identification and Use of Concrete Supports in Time of Need

**Plan to Address Needs:**

**Most Recent Rating of 2**

- SUPERVISION - Safety
- MARITAL/PARTNER VIOLENCE IN HOME - Safety
- RELATIONSHIP WITH ABUSER - Safety
- RELATIONSHIP WITH ABUSER - Commitment to Permanency Plan Goal
- KNOWLEDGE - Knowledge of Parenting & Child Development
- FAMILY STRESS - Knowledge of Parenting & Child Development
- EFFECTIVE PARENTING APPROACHES - Knowledge of Parenting & Child Development
- PARENT'S UNDERSTANDING OF IMPACT OF OWN BEHAVIOR ON CHILDREN - Knowledge of Parenting & Child Development
- EMPATHY WITH CHILDREN - Knowledge of Parenting & Child Development

**Plan to Address Needs:**