



# PRACTICE BRIEF

## Safety Mapping and the Consultation and Information Sharing Framework

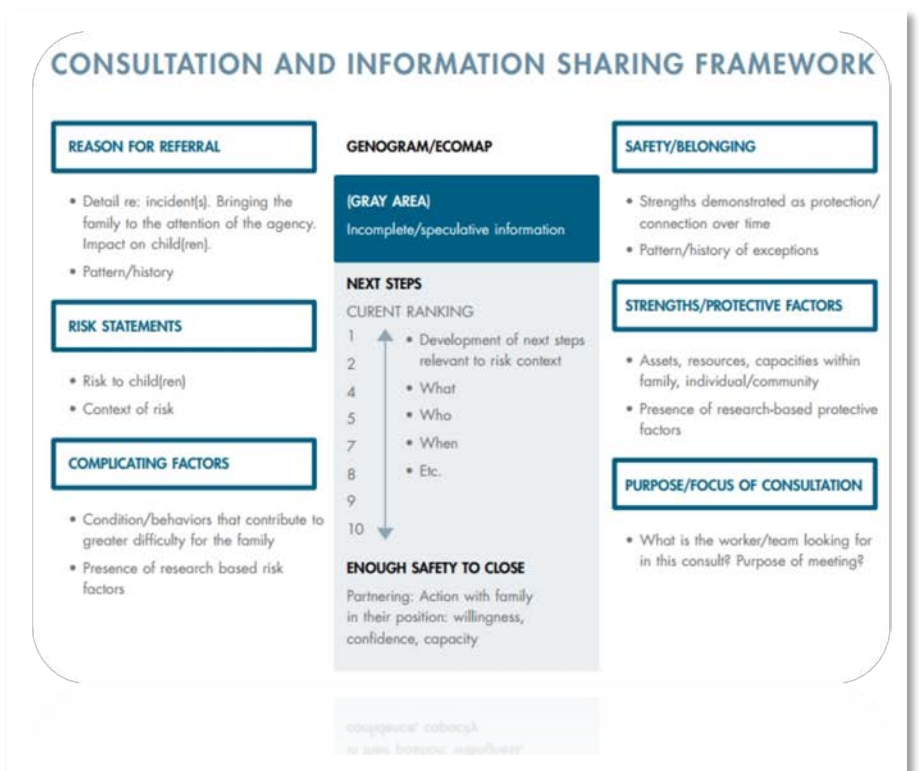
*Adapted from the Winter 2015 issue of the Reaching Out child welfare practice journal*

In several jurisdictions, the Consultation and Information Sharing Framework (Lorhbach, 1999) is utilized for group supervision, case consultation, and family team meetings. Also known as “safety mapping” among counties that have implemented Safety Organized Practice, the framework is intended to help child welfare agencies cultivate a more collaborative, partnership-based approach to working with children and families in care. The framework supports critical thinking, reflection, clarity of concerns and direction for resolution.

The framework is typically completed using a white board to 1) collect, 2) organize and 3) analyze information prior to 4) deciding upon next steps. To accomplish this, the following information is collected and added to the framework during group supervision, case consultation and/or family team meetings:

**Harm to child (reason for referral):** The detail(s) of the incident(s) bringing the family to the agency’s attention, and any known pattern and history of past social service involvement/child harm.

**Risk statement(s):** The preliminary articulation of the perceived risk to the child(ren) and the context in which the risk is most concerning, reflecting any statutory basis/focus on which the report is accepted for further assessment. Risk statements are known as danger statements in some jurisdictions.



**Complicating factors:** Conditions/behaviors that contribute to greater difficulty for the family.

**Safety:** Any existing strengths demonstrated as protection over time and any pattern/history of exceptions to the abuse/neglect.

**Strengths/protective factors:** The assets, resources and capacities within the family, individuals and community. These strengths can be built upon to support safety for the child.

**Genogram/Ecomap:** A pictorial representation of family members, extended family members, cultural communities, pets (information regarding social environment); and a map of all current service providers involved with the family and the relationship between the child and parents/caregivers (information regarding service provision and fragmentation of service provision).

**Gray area:** This space is reserved for incoming information or current information that requires further query to understand its meaning. It is important to avoid speculation in decision making in child welfare. Noting questions, areas for clarification, and further exploration is key to a full and comprehensive assessment

**Next steps:** Immediate actions regarding what needs to happen next to address the risk to the child. It is important that next steps are comprehensive (the who, what, when) while prioritizing those areas identified in the “reason for referral” section. Next steps and the timeframe for completion should be clear to all, the family, the network of support and the agency.

- **To read more about safety mapping and Safety Organized Practice, see the Winter 2015 issue of *Reaching Out* at <http://bit.ly/ReachingOutJournal>**
- **For additional resources on Safety Organized Practice, please visit our SOP Resources Page at <http://bit.ly/SafetyOrganizedPractice>**

