

Consultation & Information Sharing Framework® Questions

Genogram:

- Who is in the family? Maternal? Paternal? Other?
- Multiple households involved? Parenting time sharing plans?
- Names, spellings, ages?
- Pets? Big dog? Little dog? Floppy ears? Name? Age?
- Do you have a partner? Male? Female?
- Do you have children together?
- Married? Significant relationship?
- Other people who provide support? Friends? Daycare? School? Work?
- Tribal connections?
- Race/ethnicity/cultural identity/considerations? Specifically, what is known about whether or not the child/ren are Aboriginal children? Tribe/Band? Primary language?

“Ecomap”

- Who else is involved with the family and/or its members?
- Formal service providers?
- Practical support people?
- Tribe? Elders?
- Nature of relationships? Supportive? Helpful? Tense? Hurtful? Other?
- Other?

Gray Area

- Speculative information?
- Incomplete information?
- Impressions?
- Questions?
- Other?

Reason for Referral:

Child Protective Services:

- What brought the family to the attention of the agency? (“on this date, there was a report/referral describing or alleging this incident(s)”) Details – move from generalities to specifics.
- Who is reported to have done what to whom? Specifically what are the descriptions of what happened? What is known about this being one time or more than one time? Over clothes? Under clothes? What are the reported drugs of choice? What is known about the impact on the children? Their actions/reactions? How vulnerable is the child (age, special needs, etc.)?
- What, if any, alternative explanations are there?
- What is known about any previous pattern and history of child protective service involvement? Specifically history of allegations of sexual abuse?

Youth Justice:

- What brought the youth to the attention of probation services? (“on this date, there was an incident involving_____”)
- What specifically happened? Who was involved? What is known about harm done? What was observed or described as the behaviors/actions?

What is known about this being one time or more than one time? Over clothes? Under clothes? Specific to this person? Generalized behavior?

- What is known about any previous pattern and history of his/her behavior?

Children's Mental Health/Adolescent Behavioral Health

- What is the reason for this referral? What is the qualifying criterion that has been met for referral to this service? What are the specific behaviors? What are the displayed emotions? What is the diagnosis or diagnoses? What, if any, medications have been prescribed? What are the domains in which this behavior is observed?

Strengths/Protective Factors:

- How are the children doing? What is known about their development? What kind of activities do they participate in? If in school, what is known about academic progress? General descriptions – Intelligent? Attractive? Active? Outgoing? Empathic? Humor? Who are the adults in their life that provide good support? Friends and social interactions? Responsibilities at home (chores, pet care, etc.), extracurricular activities, job?
- What is known about safe and effective parenting practices – time outs (age appropriate), time in (catching children being good and complimenting), revocation of privileges (reasonable and with restoration of those privileges), etc.
- What is known about attentive parenting – knowledge about child schedules and activities, school work and activities, follow up on health concerns, dental health, and mental health?
- What is known about parent employment? How long have they been on the job? How does the money resource the family/children in terms of basic needs and extras?
- What is known about parent education levels and completion? What plans might there be to continue or complete?
- What is known about parent health – physical and mental?

- What adult supports do the parent(s) have? Who do they turn to when they need help?
- What internal resources do the parents have – how have they managed difficult or stressful times successfully in the past? When were there times that they might have made unhealthy choices and did something healthier instead?
- How do the caregivers manage frustration? Anger?
- What kinds of protective actions have the parents taken? Fire drills? Plans about children home alone? Daycare arrangements are thoughtful and planned? Car seats and seat belts used? Time outs when angry or frustrated? Outlets plugged? Hazards put out of reach (including alcohol and prescription medications as well as household cleaning solutions)? Leave information for older children on how to reach them? Children know their full names and names of parents, where they live, phone numbers (where developmentally reasonable)? Guns locked and ammunition locked separately? Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in place and operational? Evidence of well child checks and medical attention when needed? Immunizations up to date? Wires properly installed and free from exposure?
- Transportation available? Public transportation accessible? Car? Driver's license?
- Food available? Formula? Diapers? Clothes?
- Housing/shelter? Over time?
- Parents engaged in play? Knowledge about how to interact with children given ages and stages?
- Evidence of healthy attachment? Parents affectionate? Talk to and with children? Eye contact? Children seek comfort? Parents respond to distress? Parents can identify unique qualities and characteristics of children?
- Daycare? Competent caregiver? Evidence of communication between parents and provider?
- Observations of interactions by social worker and other involved adults?

- Knowledge of community resources?
- Parent activities? Church? Sports? Community?
- Safe sleep practices? (Are infants in their own sleeping space? Proper ventilation? Free of bedding, toys, etc.?)
- What is known about the care of pets? (are they fed, trained, interactions with children, shots, etc.)

Complicating Factors

- What contributes to making life more difficult? For the family members, children specifically, social worker, etc.?
- Where are the sources of conflict? Between family members? With social workers, etc.?
- Past history or concerns regarding use of alcohol or other drugs? Parents, other caregivers, children, youth?
- Formal diagnoses – mental health and/or physical health that complicate matters? Medication issues? Multiple medical opinions?
- What is known about financial stress? Rent or mortgage? Utilities? Food?
- Discrepant explanations?
- Making contact?
- Pending criminal charges?
- Restrictions?
- Grief and loss?
- Revocation of driver's license?
- No car, health or dental insurance?
- Pending eviction?
- Too many appointments?
- Low or absent confidence in progress or between people (family members, social worker, etc.)
- Parenting challenges – teenagers?
- Struggles with friends?
- Past adult history of having been abused?

- Separation/divorce?
- Alcohol or other drug use/addiction recovery challenges?
- Parents and children separated – siblings separated?
- Immigration issues?
- Fears of deportation?
- Multiple courts involved?
- Conflicting court orders?
- Member of a marginalized population – history of oppression/denied access/opportunity?
- Evidence of animal/pet cruelty?

Safety:

- What strengths have been demonstrated as protection over time?
Caregivers free of alcohol and other drugs? Children well cared for and thriving? Basic needs met over time? Support people active in safety plan development and implementation? Safety plans tested and working? Constructive working relationship between social worker/case worker and family members (straightforward conversations, shared understanding of goals, willingness to disclose and work through gaps and challenges, etc.)? Collaboration among professionals (involved providers talking with each other alongside family members to that information is available at a common table)? Caregivers meeting the medical, dental and mental health needs of children consistently? Evidence of stability and security of care for children – parenting and/or co-parenting and primary and multiple attachments. Evidence of parents/caregivers providing consistent care and supervision for children specific to their developmental and any additional needs?
- Caregiver/parent care/protective actions – looking after, caring for, attending to, advocating for? Details?
- Caregiver behaviors and emotions regulated? Details?

- Caregiver able to respond to child distress and provide calm environment? Details?
- Living environment free of hazards/toxins? Details?
- Living environment free of major stressors and/or those stressors managed and supports in place? Details?

Belonging:

- What relationship strengths have been demonstrated as meaningful connection over time? Attachment with a primary caregiver? Length of time in that person's care? Multiple attachments with consistent caregivers? Length of time? Evidence of relationships with additional competent adults? Relationships with siblings? Healthy relationships with others? Details? How enduring have these relationships been? Pattern and history of contact? Connections to culture? Ethnicity? Sense of identity? Access to and opportunities to learn family primary language? Access to and opportunities to learn cultural practices and traditions? Access to extended family? Details?
- Relationships consistent and stable? Child/young person able to count on these relationships on a daily basis? Seek help? Seek support? Evidence of child/young person seeking help and/or support?

Risk Statement(s):

- What are you worried will happen to the child(ren)? (**RISK**) – Specific detail, specific people named, in language everyone can understand.
- When are you most worried that will happen? (**CONTEXT**) – Specific detail, specific people/actions named, in language everyone can understand.

_____ (child name) may be _____ (risk) when/should
_____ (context).

Safety/Belonging Statement(s):

- The risk of _____ to _____ (child name) when _____ (context) is being/has been addressed by _____ (safety/belonging built to the context of risk – detail). Specific detail, specific people/actions named, in language everyone can understand.

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