

I. THE FAMILY TOGETHER

Every family is different and some family members may not all live in the same place, and some may not be blood relatives or legally related

1. Housing Stability

This item refers to the stability of the family's housing. This does not refer to the risk of placement outside of the family home for any member of the family.

- 0 Family housing has been stable in the past and is stable for the foreseeable future.
- 1 Family has had housing difficulties recently, but housing appears stable now.
- 2 Family is currently having difficulties that are threatening their current housing situation (problems with landlord, difficulty paying rent, mortgage or utilities on time or in full)
- 3 Without immediate help, the family is going to be evicted or foreclosed soon, or is currently homeless or living in temporary shelter.

2. Physical Condition of the Home

This item refers to the physical condition of the house or apartment in which the family is currently residing. It also refers to housekeeping both in terms of cleanliness and organization, and safety from dangerous materials and/or objects (e.g. childproofing).

- 0 No health, safety, or cleanliness concerns on property. Home is clean, maintained well; poisons and medications are locked up/stored away properly, and out of reach. Home is childproofed; kitchen and bathroom are functional; all utilities are operational; everyone has a bed; and outlets are plugged.
 - 1 Minor health, safety or cleanliness concerns on property that pose no threat and are easily correctable. Examples: Most precautions have been taken; no danger to the children; poisons and medications are out of reach but not locked up; home is mostly childproofed; utilities are operational; minor cleaning/organization is needed; some odor may be present.
 - 2 Moderate health or safety hazards, i.e., overcrowding, vermin, or other health and sanitation concerns. Some precautions have been taken, but potential hazards exist. Examples: Poisons and medications are out of sight but within reach of children, overloaded outlets, matches and knives accessible but out of sight. Gas, heat, electricity, or plumbing sometimes does not work. Home is cluttered. House needs general cleaning (bathroom, bedrooms, kitchen, and/or basement). Beds needed.
 - 3 Serious health or safety hazards, i.e., living in condemned and/or structurally unsound residence; exposed wiring, fire/safety hazards, or pest infestation. Home is not safe. Examples: Poisons or medications are visible and accessible, no screens on second floor windows for toddlers, outlets not plugged, utilities off. No beds for children and/or parent. No working refrigerator.
- N/A Not applicable: family is homeless, living in a car or tent.

3. Financial Resources and Self-Sufficiency

This item refers to the income and other sources of money available to family members (particularly caregivers) that can be used to address family needs.

- 0 Family's own financial resources are sufficient to meet family needs.
- 1 Family is using a combination of own financial resources and public benefit programs to meet family needs.
- 2 Family has little or no personal financial resources and participation in public benefit programs is not sufficient to meet all family needs.
- 3 Family is experiencing significant financial hardship and needs immediate financial help to meet basic family needs.

4. Relationships among Siblings

This item refers to how the children in the family (brothers and sisters) get along with each other.

- 0 Siblings usually get along well. There may be occasional fights or conflicts between them, but they are quickly resolved.
- 1 Siblings generally get along; however, when fights or conflicts arise there is some difficulty resolving them.
- 2 Siblings often do not get along. They generally try to resolve their fights or conflicts but have limited success in doing so.
- 3 Siblings do not get along. They either do not speak to each other or actively continue conflicts, sometimes they may be physically violent with each other.
- N/A Not applicable; there is only one child in the family.

5. Communication and Conflict Resolution between Parents and Parents and Child

This item refers to the ability of family members to talk to each other about thoughts and feelings and how well they negotiate conflicts.(rate sibling-sibling communication in item #4)

- 0 Family members get along well and negotiate disagreements respectfully.
- 1 Family members generally get along well. Some difficulty in resolving minor conflicts in a respectful way. (no physical violence or threats).
- 2 Family members often argue and conflicts are a fairly constant part of family communications. Resolution is rarely achieved (no physical violence or threats).
- 3 Family members have fights that sometimes include physical altercations, emotional abuse, or credible threats of violence. A current restraining order against one member would be rated here.

6. Continuity of Care

This item refers to the family's history of being together or of being separated with others taking over primary care responsibilities of any of the children for a period of time, either informally or formally, where the parent/caregiver was not willing or not able to provide parenting/caregiving responsibility.

- 0 The parents/caretakers have always been responsible for providing care to all of their children; no child has ever been in the care or custody of another caretaker for a significant period of time because the parent was unwilling or unable to maintain parenting responsibilities.
- 1 The parents/caretakers have relied on friends or family members for caretaking for no more than a few short periods of time when the parent was unwilling or unable to maintain parenting responsibilities.
- 2 The parents/caretakers have relied on friends or family for caretaking for several weeks or for frequent shorter periods as they were unwilling or unable to maintain parenting responsibilities.
- 3 The parents/caretakers have relied on friends, family or foster care to provide primary caretaking responsibility very frequently or for extended periods of time as they were unwilling or unable to maintain parenting responsibilities.

II. CHILDREN

Think about all the children in the family & score the child with the highest need.

7. Child's Relationship with Parents

This item refers to the child's relationship with his/her parents. Usually this means the child's birth parents, but may include adoptive parents or other parental figures, such as stepparents, grandparents or another adult assuming a parental role.

- 0 Child has generally positive relationships with all parents and parental figures and can go to parents and parental figures for security, comfort and guidance.
- 1 Child has a generally positive relationship with a parent or parental figure, but has little or no on-going relationship with a birth parent.
- 2 Child has a generally positive relationship with one parent or parental figure, but has a negative, hurtful relationship with a birth parent or other parental figure.
- 3 Child does not have any positive relationships with parents or parental figures. Child can not go to any parents or parental figures for security, comfort, or guidance.

8. Child's Health Status and Medical and Dental Care

This item describes the children's current physical health and access to health/ dental care.

- 0 Child is in generally good physical health and receives regular preventive care.
- 1 Child has a chronic or significant health problem, but receives appropriate care.
- 2 Child is in generally good health, but does not receive regular preventive care and/or does not have health insurance.
- 3 Child has a chronic or significant health or dental problem and has serious unmet medical or dental care needs. (lack of medical or dental care could be due to no or inadequate health insurance or due to caregiver negligence)

9. Child's Educational and Service Status

This item refers to the children's status with school. If all children have completed their schooling then use '0'. If a child has dropped out without completing, use a '3'.

- 0 Child is meeting or exceeding educational expectation at an age-expected grade level.
 - 1 Child is mostly meeting educational expectations at an age-expected grade level.
 - 2 Child is performing below educational expectations, and is enrolled in specialized educational services in order to learn at an adequate level.
 - 3 Child has significant educational problems due to behavior problems, such as chronic truancy, suspensions, or expulsions. Child may be in a specialized educational setting but remains unable to learn at an adequate level.
- N/A Not applicable: all children are younger than school-age

10. Child's Developmental and Service Status

This item refers to the child's cognitive and physical development. Problems could include cognitive disability, autism, or learning difficulties. For infants and toddlers, assess child's progress toward physical development milestones, such as sitting, crawling, walking, and eating.

- 0 Child meets or exceeds all developmental milestones.
- 1 Child is close to meeting all developmental milestones.
- 2 Child has a developmental or learning delay or disability, and is enrolled in DD services.
- 3 Child has significant developmental problems and is either not receiving or is not benefiting from current services.

11. Child's Interpersonal Skills and Service Status

This refers to the children's ability to make and maintain friendships and other relationships with peers and adults.

- 0 Child has good, developmentally appropriate relationship skills.
 - 1 Child has minor difficulties with social skills and friendship development or maintenance.
 - 2 Child has significant difficulties with social skills and friendship development, and is attending some social development activities.
 - 3 Child has significant difficulties with social skills and friendship development and is not participating in or is not benefiting from social development activities.
- N/A Not applicable; all children are too young to assess interpersonal skills

12. Child's High Risk Behaviors and Service Status

This item describes any behavior that has the potential of placing the child or others at risk of physical harm. Ex: suicidal gestures, self-mutilation or cutting behaviors, violence, recklessness, alcohol or drug use, unsafe sex, sexual aggression, gang affiliation, and illegal activities.

- 0 Child shows no evidence of any high risk behavior.
- 1 Child has a history of high risk behavior but not recently.
- 2 Child engages in high risk behavior, but is enrolled in services to address behavior.
- 3 Child engages in high risk behavior and is not enrolled in services to address behavior.

13. Child's Mental Health and Service Status (including substance use or abuse)

This item describes the children's current mental health including substance abuse disorders.

- 0 Child has no signs of any notable mental health or substance abuse problems.
- 1 Child has mild mental health or substance use challenges, but is functioning adequately without mental health services.
- 2 Child has a mental health problem (or substance abuse disorder) that interferes with his/her functioning, but is enrolled in treatment services.
- 3 Child has a mental health problem (or substance abuse disorder) that interferes with his/her functioning, and is either not receiving services or is not complying with treatment recommendations.

III. CAREGIVERS

There may be more than one adult caring for the children. If so, score the caregiver with the highest need.

14. Primary Caregiver's Partner Relationship

This item refers to the primary caregiver's intimate relationship with another adult. If married, this refers to the primary caregiver's husband or wife.

- 0 Caregiver has a strong, positive, partner relationship with another adult. This adult functions as a member of the family.
 - 1 Caregiver has a generally positive partner relationship with another adult. This adult does not function as a member of the family.
 - 2 Caregiver is currently involved in a negative, unhealthy relationship with another adult. This adult does not live with the caregiver and children. (include recent break-ups here)
 - 3 Caregiver is currently involved in a negative, unhealthy relationship with another adult who is living with the primary caregiver and children.
- N/A Not applicable: Primary Caregiver does not have an adult partner relationship

15. Caregiver's Vocational Functioning

This item refers to the caregiver's work effectiveness including, but not limited to, attendance, productivity, and relationships with co-workers.

- 0 Caregiver is satisfied with current full or part-time employment with no problems at work.
 - 1 Caregiver is partially employed, employed significantly below her/his level of education/experience/training, or is having some work-related problems.
 - 2 Caregiver is having significant work-related problems, or is temporarily unemployed because of such difficulties, or recently became unemployed due to layoffs.
 - 3 Caregiver is chronically unemployed or obtains financial resources through activities which are illegal and/or potentially harmful to her/himself and her/his family members (prostitution, drug dealing, for example).
- N/A Not applicable: Caregiver chooses to be a full-time homemaker or student, or is disabled and can't work

16. Caregiver's Mental Health and Service Status

This item refers to mental health needs only (not substance abuse or dependence).

- 0 Caregiver has no signs of any notable mental health problems.
- 1 Caregiver has mild mental health challenges, but is functioning adequately without mental health services.
- 2 Caregiver has a mental health problem that may interfere with his/her functioning, but is enrolled in treatment services.
- 3 Caregiver has a mental health problem that interferes with his/her functioning, and is either not receiving services or is not complying with treatment recommendations.

17. Caregiver's Alcohol and/or Drug Use and Service Status

This item includes problems with alcohol, illegal drugs and/or prescription drugs.

- 0 Caregiver has no history in the past 2 years and no current problems related to the use of drugs or alcohol.
- 1 Caregiver has had within the past two years or currently has mild problems with work or home life that result from occasional use of alcohol or drugs.
- 2 Caregiver has had within the past two years or currently has significant problems with work or home life that result from use of alcohol or drugs (diagnosable substance-related disorder), and is currently participating in substance abuse services.
- 3 Caregiver has had within the past two years or currently has significant problems with work or home life that result from use of alcohol or drugs (diagnosable substance-related disorder) and is currently actively using either alcohol, drugs or both.

18. Caregiver's Supervision of Children

This item refers to the success with which the caregiver is able to monitor children in his/her care. This item should be rated consistent with the developmental needs of the children.

- 0 Caregiver demonstrates consistent ability to supervise children according to their developmental needs.
- 1 Caregiver demonstrates generally good ability to supervise children; however, some problems may occur occasionally.
- 2 Caregiver has difficulty maintaining an appropriate level of supervision of one or more children.
- 3 Caregiver has significant problems maintaining any supervision of one or more children.

19. Boundaries and Developmentally Appropriate Expectations of Children

This item refers to the caregiver's awareness of and ability to adapt expectations of children to their age and stage of development. It also refers to protecting children from information or experiences that are too mature or difficult for the child to handle.

- 0 Caregiver demonstrates developmentally appropriate expectations of all children and appropriately keeps information or experiences from children that they should not know or be exposed to given their ages and family roles.
- 1 Caregiver occasionally expects too much from child, or allows child to be exposed to information or experiences that may not be appropriate given their age and family role.
- 2 Caregiver frequently expects too much from child, or allows child to be exposed to information or experiences that are somewhat inappropriate given child's age and family role.
- 3 Caregiver consistently expects too much from child, or allows child to be exposed to information or experiences that are definitely inappropriate given child's age and family role.

20. Caregiver's Disciplinary Practices with Children

Discipline refers to the caregiver's ability to encourage positive behaviors by children in his/her care through the use of a variety of different techniques including but not limited to praise, redirection, and punishment.

- 0 Caregiver generally demonstrates an ability to discipline her/his children in a consistent and benevolent manner. Usually able to set age appropriate limits and to enforce them.
- 1 Caregiver is often able to set age appropriate limits and to enforce them. On occasion her/his interventions may be either too lenient or too harsh but not physically harmful, or her/his expectations of the children may be too high or too low, but the caregiver usually recognizes parenting mistakes and can identify alternatives.
- 2 Caregiver demonstrates limited ability to discipline children in a consistent and benevolent manner. She/he rarely is able to set age appropriate limits and to enforce them. Her/his interventions may be erratic and overly harsh but not physically harmful. Her/his expectations of her/his children are frequently unrealistic.
- 3 Caregiver disciplines her/his children in an unpredictable fashion. There is either an absence of limit setting and disciplinary interventions or the limit setting and disciplinary interventions are rigid, extreme, and physically harmful.

IV. CAREGIVER ADVOCACY STATUS

This section provides an opportunity for the caregiver to assess his or her current ability to advocate for family members individually or for the family in general.

21. Caregiver's Knowledge and Attention to Family/Child Needs and Service Status

This item refers to the caregiver's ability to recognize and attend to the needs of the family and individual family members.

- 0 Caregiver understands and capably attends to family and child needs.
- 1 Caregiver understands and attends to most family and child needs, but may benefit from learning more about certain aspects of some needs or how to attend to them better.
- 2 Caregiver requires assistance in understanding family and/or child needs, but is currently enrolled in services to address this need.
- 3 Caregiver requires substantial assistance in identifying and understanding family and child needs and is not currently receiving services to address this need.

22. Caregiver's Natural Supports

Natural supports refer to help that you do not have to pay for. This could include friends and extended family or a church or other organization that can be relied on to provide useful help and support in times of need.

- 0 Caregiver has a substantial network of natural supports to assist in addressing family and child needs.
- 1 Caregiver has some natural supports which are adequate to assist family most of the time.
- 2 Caregiver has few natural supports who can reliably assist family when needed.
- 3 Caregiver has no natural supports and is effectively isolated (code here if natural supports are available but caregiver refuses offers of help from natural supports).

23. Caregiver's Problem Solving Ability

This item refers to the caregiver's ability to anticipate and solve problems so as to avoid small problems becoming big problems and crises.

- 0 Caregiver has strong ability to anticipate and solve problems in a timely manner.
- 1 Caregiver has adequate ability to anticipate and solve most problems before crises erupt.
- 2 Caregiver has difficulty in anticipating and solving problems before crises erupt.
- 3 Caregiver is unable to address problems until after crises erupt.

24. Caregiver's Knowledge of Service Options and Ability to Access Services

This item refers to the choices the family might have for specific services or interventions that might help the family address their needs or the needs of one of the family's members.

- 0 Caregiver is knowledgeable about service options for current and/or potential areas of family need, and is capable of finding and accessing any needed services without additional help.
 - 1 Caregiver can access service options independently, but may benefit from additional information to identify, understand or choose additional services.
 - 2 Caregiver requires moderate assistance in identifying, understanding, choosing, or accessing service options.
 - 3 Caregiver requires substantial assistance in identifying, understanding, choosing, or accessing service options.
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