



Family Functioning Assessment Tool¹

Maltreatment/Presenting Problem (Recognizing Patterns in Everyday Life)

The purpose of this section is to identify the presenting problem and the maltreatment to the child(ren). This area of family functioning will not change during a Family Preservation Services (FPS) or Foster Care Case unless a new incident or report of abuse is received.

Descriptions of Maltreatment/Presenting Problem (Recognizing Patterns in Everyday Life)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abuse that was reported at intake - Specific allegations of abuse (hit, kicked, sexually abuse, dangerous environment) • Abuse found during the Investigation - severity of the alleged abuse • Facts and evidence that support the presence of, or lack of maltreatment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Current condition of the child (malnourished, lethargic, dirty) ○ Witnesses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maltreating behavior (hitting or injuries) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Date and time of the alleged abuse ○ Alleged maltreater ○ Injuries (bruises, cuts, patterned injuries) • The impact the abuse had on the child(ren) (physically or emotionally) |
|--|--|



Family Functioning Assessment Tool¹

Maltreatment Context and Circumstances (Tracking an Interactional Sequence)

The purpose of this section is to understand how the alleged maltreatment incident occurred and the seriousness of the situation. Unless there is a new report of abuse during an active FPS or Foster Care Case this area of functioning will not change.

Descriptions of Maltreatment Context and Circumstances (Tracking an Interactional Sequence)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circumstances leading up to during, and after the alleged maltreatment event. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Timeline of events. ○ Trigger for the event (premediated, deliberate, intentional, accidental). ○ Individuals who intervened to protect the child during the event. • Patterns of behavior (chronicity) exhibited by the caregiver(s) that impacted the situation or led to the alleged maltreatment (i.e. track the problem over time). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Severity of situation (new, progressing, worsening). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information obtained from the caregiver/alleged maltreater, collateral contacts, alleged victim/non-victim child(ren), and other household members regarding how and why alleged the maltreatment did or did not occur. • Perception, explanation, and attitudes of family members regarding the alleged maltreatment and the seriousness of the situation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Plausibility of the alleged maltreaters explanation for the alleged abuse. ○ Remorseful attitudes and honesty versus dishonesty and deflection. |
|--|--|



Family Functioning Assessment Tool¹

Family's Pattern of Disciplining Their Children (How is the Family Functioning in the Specific Area of Disciplining Their Children)

The purpose of this section is to identify routines regarding discipline, including strengths (i.e. age appropriate discipline or self-control while disciplining child) and any concerns (i.e. uses violence or threats, discipline is vengeful, physical discipline stems from frustration and/or anger).

Descriptions of Family's Pattern of Disciplining their Children (How is the Family Functioning in the Specific Area of Disciplining Their Children)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary discipline method. • Caregiver's attitude, reasoning, and purpose behind the method(s) of discipline employed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Caregiver's attitude and approach to discipline. ○ How the caregiver was disciplined as a child. ○ Perception of the caregiver of his/her role in parenting and discipline. ○ Threats of violence or vengeful behavior or physical discipline that stems from frustration or anger. • Cultural practices surrounding discipline methods. • Caregiver comprehension of discipline beyond just punishment (i.e. the relationship of discipline to teaching and providing guidance for the child). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge, expectations, and skills demonstrated by the caregiver when disciplining the child. • Instances of self-control or restraint that demonstrate caregiver's protective capacities. • Condition of the caregiver when discipline is used (i.e. intoxicated, angry, cooled down before disciplining the child, self-control). • Progress has there been towards achieving FLOs and ILOs, when applicable. |
|--|---|



Family Functioning Assessment Tool¹

Family Support

(What are the Family's Resources and Social Supports That Could Assist Them in Addressing the Safety Concerns)

The purpose of this section is to identify the family's strengths and support system to help avert or address child maltreatment and safety concerns.

Descriptions of Family Support

(What are the Family's Resources and Social Supports That Could Assist Them in Addressing the Safety Concerns)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal and informal supports that the family has identified as helpful or supportive. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Household members and extended family ○ Non-family members (good friends or natural helpers) ○ Social networks (church or community programs and services) • Help provided by the identified support(s) concerning the specific task or situation that the family is struggling with. • Type of support provided to help the family protect their children. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriateness of formal and/or informal supports identified. • Ways the support systems can be a part of the process of helping the family manage their conflicts and help to avoid an unsafe situation. • Additional supports available in the community or family that can help. • Progress made toward achieving FLOs and ILOs, when applicable. |
|---|--|



Family Functioning Assessment Tool¹

Child/Youth Development (Child Vulnerability)

The purpose of this section is to understand the development and functioning of the child/youth to identify child vulnerabilities related to child maltreatment and safety.

Descriptions of Child/Youth Development (Child Vulnerability)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child's development and functioning:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Child development (on target for their age)○ Appearance (healthy, emaciated, flat affect, fearful, or anxious).○ Developmental (physical and intellectual), education, mental health (behavioral, psychological, cognitive) and social (peer relations and social development) and medical.○ Ability of the child to communicate/express needs.• Child's place/role in the family.• Medical or mental health treatment (receiving or needs). | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child's vulnerabilities (child's capacity to self-protect):<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The child's age, physical disability, mental disability, behavioral challenges, feeling of powerlessness, feeling of being defenseless, non-assertive behaviors, illness, feeling of being invisible, play, or socially isolated.○ Impact of child vulnerabilities on the alleged maltreatment and child safety.• Progress made toward achieving FLOs and ILOs, when applicable. |
|--|---|



Family Functioning Assessment Tool¹

Individual Caretaker Patterns of Behavior (Are There Self-Management Issues That Affect the Family Care Tasks)

The purpose of this section is to assess caregiver protective capacity by identifying the individual caregiver's functioning and patterns of behavior independent of DFCS involvement based on information obtained from caregiver(s), household members, and collateral contacts.

Descriptions of Individual Caretaker Patterns of Behavior*

(Are there Self-Management Issues that Affect the Family Care Tasks)

*Refer to the [Caregiver Protective Capacity Tool](#) when completing the assessment of Individual Caretaker Patterns of Behavior

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Functioning of each caregiver, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Parenting practices (parenting knowledge and skills). ○ Management of daily life and coping with stress (assertive, calm, problem solver or unrealistic, immature, unmotivated). ○ Current employment (where, how long). ○ Socially active or isolated. ○ Relationships with others both in and out of the home. ○ Physical, medical, behavioral, psychological, cognitive issues and impact on caregiving and protective capacity. ○ Current or previous substance use/abuse and impact on caregiving and protective capacity. ○ Current or previous mental health condition and impact on caregiving and caregiver protective capacity. ● Patterns of behaviors, including unwanted or dangerous behavior <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Criminal history or current trouble with law enforcement (chronic issues or one-time problem). ○ Anger and control issues | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sexually abusive behavior (perpetrator or victim) ○ Domestic violence (perpetrator or victim) in past or present relationships. ○ Actions taken in the past or could do in the future to lessen the frustration/increase success in the everyday life routines of the family, particularly in the child rearing areas that have been assessed as safety issues. ○ Actions that may have fostered the escalation of the maltreatment or child safety concern. ○ Actions that assisted in helping to avoid or interrupt the cycle of maladaptive or destructive behavior. ● Role any diminished protective capacities played in the alleged maltreatment or child safety and their child rearing efforts. ● Information gathered that supports or refutes caregiver statements or assessor observations. ● Progress made toward achieving FLOs and ILOs, when applicable. |
|--|--|