

SHELTER CARE / DETENTION HEARING

Assessment of Risk

1. What harm has the child suffered?
2. Classify the degree of harm i.e. severe, moderate, mild.
3. With what frequency and over what period of time has harm occurred?
4. Are the consequences, physical and emotional, likely to be short-term, long-term or permanent?
5. What is the likelihood of recurrence and why?
6. What kind of long-term or permanent damage could result if the situation goes unchecked?
7. Was removal of the child necessary for his or her protection?
8. What services, short of removal, are necessary to adequately reduce risk?
9. Which of these services are available in this area?
10. Are there waiting lists for any needed services?
11. How would the family access these services?
12. Which services were made available to this family prior to removal (or prior to this hearing)? What outcome was observed for each service?
13. Are professional assessments necessary to fully answer any of these questions?
14. List any additional factors which increase the level of risk, i.e. substance abuse, domestic violence, caregiver abused as a child, history of court involvement with other children, etc.

Assessment of Primary Caregiver

1. What is the caregiver's understanding of the situation?
2. Is the caregiver motivated to make necessary changes?
3. Is there substance abuse on the part of the caregiver?
4. If there has been substance abuse, what is the duration, severity and recovery history?
5. If there has been substance abuse, what is the impact on caregiving ability?
6. What is the health status of the caregiver?
7. What is the caregiver's intellectual level?
8. What is the caregiver's level of parenting skills?
9. Describe the caregiver's current emotional state.
10. What kind of support is available from spouse, significant other, extended family and / or friends?
11. If one of the child's parents has not been involved, what efforts at contact have been made?
12. How has the caregiver demonstrated cooperation with service providers or lack of it?

13. Does the caregiver have the ability to protect the child or remedy the situation?
14. Are professional assessments necessary to fully answer any of these questions?

Assessment of Child

1. Are basic food and clothing provided for the child when s/he is in the caregiver's home?
2. Does the home contain serious hazards to the child's health and safety? Is the caregiver's current home adequate?
3. How does the caregiver meet the child's health and medical needs?
4. What level of supervision does the caregiver provide?
5. What indications of caregiver-child attachment have been observed?
6. What is the child's relationship with his/her siblings?
7. What is the child's experience with discipline, limit setting and consequences in the home?
8. Does the caregiver have realistic expectations of the child?
9. In what ways are emotional nurture and intellectual stimulation provided by the caregiver?
10. How does the child perform in school academically and behaviorally? Have there been any significant changes recently?
11. Is the child seen as a cause of problems in the home, school or community?
12. Describe any history of delinquent behavior.
13. Is family income sufficient to meet the child's basic needs?
14. What is the child's understanding of the situation?
15. Is the child requesting out of home placement?
16. Does the child have other extended family members? What kind of relationship have they had with the child?
17. Are professional assessments necessary to fully answer any of these questions?

Assessment of Out of Home Placement

1. List all the losses that the child would suffer by being removed from the home.
2. Would siblings be placed together?
3. What is the most appropriate type of placement for this child?
4. Is such a placement available, and if so, how soon?
5. What efforts have been made to locate possible relative placements?
6. How has the appropriateness of any relative placement been assessed?
7. What will out of home placement provide for the child? For the parent?
8. What visitation arrangements would be made, i.e. location, frequency, length, transportation, supervision?
9. What is the expected duration of placement?