

Basic List of Questions to Ask

Child

1. What are your interests
2. How do you feel about school?
3. Have you visited/spoken to relatives? How often? How did it go?
4. Do you like the foster/group home?
5. Any problems? Who did you tell? Outcome?
6. Where would you like to live? What do you want for your future?

Parents/Family members

1. Tell me about the child
2. Activities enjoyed
3. How often do you speak to/visit with the child?
4. What is your plan or goal for your child? Desire for reunification?
5. What help do you need from me, DSS to achieve that goal?
6. Other family for visitation/placement/support resources

DSS Social Worker

1. Confirm placement and contact information
2. Do you have contact information for the child's Therapist, Psychiatrist, Foster Parents, Family Members, etc.?
3. Request updated information (placement. Etc)
4. Date of last facilitation meeting? Request results from it. Request copy of current case plan.
5. Has the child been assigned a parent (educational) surrogate(only if necessary)
6. Have you visited with the family? How often? How did the visits go?

Foster Parents

1. How are things going? How is his/her behavior
2. Does he/she get along with the family? Are there other kids in the home? Are they foster kids or biological kids?
3. School, Homework
4. What is the child's regular schedule? Routines? Activities?
5. Concerns (get details about any incidents)
6. Talks to/Visits with family
7. Is the child in therapy? Is he/she on medication? Does he/she take it?
8. Appointment up to date?(medical, dental, vision)
9. Does he/she talk to/family members? How often? (specifically those named in case file)
10. Does he visit family members? Who? Where? How often? Who provides the transportation
11. When is it most convenient for the CASA to visit the child? Inside or outside the home?

Group Home Manager

1. How does the child get along with the staff? Other residents?
2. Has he/she integrated himself into group home life?
3. How is his/her behavior in general? Any specific incidents? Request incident reports
4. Is he/she receiving therapy
5. Is he/she taking his medication?
6. What are his/her strengths?
7. What area does he/she need more support in?
8. Does he/she participate in group home events? What activities does the group home offer?
9. Does he/she follow the rules? Does he/she obey the curfew?
10. May I have a copy of his/her treatment plan? When is the next treatment planning meeting?
11. Does he/she talk to /see family members? How often? (specifically those named in case file)
12. Does he/she visit family members? Who? Where? How often? Who transports?

Therapist

1. How often is the child seen? Does he keep his appointments? If not, why?
2. Is he/she open to therapy? Is he/she engaged?
3. May I have copies of any assessments, reports, and visit notes?
4. Recommendations? (Anger management, structured activities, mentor, family therapy, etc.)
5. Is there any other type of therapy that would be beneficial that he/she is not receiving?
(family,group,play)

Foster Care Agency Worker

1. Activities
2. Concerns
3. Visits w/family
4. Therapy/medication
5. Appointments
6. Notes from most recent treatment team meeting/next scheduled team meeting?

Psychiatrist

1. What has he/she been diagnosed with?
2. Has he/she been prescribed medication? Which ones? Dosages? How often evaluated?
3. How often is the child seen?
4. Can you fax me a copy of your most recent Psychiatric evaluation?

School Guidance Counselor

1. May I have a printout of his/her attendance records?
2. Who is contacted when he/she is absent? How are they contacted?
3. May I have a copy of his/her most recent report card/progress report?
4. Has he/she completed his community service hours? (High school students)
5. Has he/she taken the HSAs? What were the results? (High School Students)
6. Does he/she have a record of misbehaving? Request incident reports (suspensions, expulsions)
7. Has an IEP been requested? When? By whom? Status?
8. What resources are available at the school? (tutoring, test prep, online assignments /grades)
9. What classes are required to graduate? Is the child on track to graduate on time?
10. What extracurricular activities are offered?
11. Parent/educational contact information

Teachers

1. What class do you teach? (Information is online)
2. What time does he/she attend your class? (Information is on schedule)
3. Does he/she attend your class regularly? (See attendance records)
4. When he/she attends class, is he on time? (tardies are shown on attendance records)
5. Is he/she prepared (homework, books, paper, and pen)?
6. How is his/her behavior?
7. How many homework assignments have been given? What were his/her grades on each?
8. How many tests has he been given? What were his/her grades on them?
9. Are extra credits offered?
10. Does he/she actively participate in class?
11. Does he/she ask for help when he does not understand the lesson?
12. In your opinion, is he/she able to do the work?
13. Do you offer tutoring?
14. What can I do to help him/her be more successful in school?
15. What are the child's strengths?
16. Request a copy of the syllabus/classroom expectations

Probation Officer

1. What are the terms of his probation?
2. Is he complying with the terms of his probation?
3. How often does he have to visit you?

Note: This list of basic questions is only a guide. All of the questions may not be appropriate for each case. You may need to ask different people the same questions to make sure that everyone is on the same page. Also, ask everyone that you speak to when is the best time to contact them