

The following six areas of family life may be used to assist in gathering pertinent and sufficient information for assessing child safety.

- **What is the extent of the situation?** The extent is concerned with the maltreating behavior and the immediate physical effects on a child. It considers what is occurring or has occurred and what the results are (e.g. hitting, injuries.)
  - The kind and specific description of the A/N, CINC/NAN, Alternative Response or Pregnant Woman Using Substances situation.
  - The severity of the A/N, CINC/NAN, Alternative Response or Pregnant Woman Using Substances situation.
  - The specifics of the events, injuries and conditions present.
- **What are the circumstances surrounding the situation?** The circumstances are concerned with the nature of what accompanies or surrounds the maltreatment. It addresses what is going on at the time the maltreatment occurs or has occurred. It serves to qualify the nature of the maltreatment.
  - The caretakers' explanation of what happened, the injuries, and related conditions, including the child's condition.
  - History and duration of the situation.
  - Co-existing factors and conditions such as substance abuse or mental health.
  - Contextual issues, such as use of instruments, acts of discipline, threats, and caretaker intentions.
  - Caregiver acknowledgement and attitude about the A/N, CINC/NAN, Alternative Response or Pregnant Woman Using Substances situation.
- **How does the child function on a daily basis?** Child functioning is concerned with a child's general behavior, emotions, temperament and physical capacity. It addresses how a child is from day to day. A developmentally appropriate standard is applied in this area of inquiry.
  - Capacity for attachment.
  - General mood and temperament.
  - Intellectual functioning.
  - Communication and social skills.
  - Expressions of emotions/feelings.
  - Behavior.
  - Peer relations.
  - School performance.
  - Physical and mental health.
  - Vulnerability.
  - Functioning within cultural norms.
- **What are the disciplinary approaches and typical context used by the caregiver?** Disciplinary Approaches are concerned with the manner in which caregivers approach discipline and child guidance. Discipline is considered in the broader context of socialization – teaching and guiding the child.
  - Disciplinary methods.
  - Concept and purpose of discipline.
  - Context in which discipline occurs.
  - Cultural practices.

- **What are the overall parenting practices used by caregivers?** Explores the general nature and approach to parenting which forms a basis for understanding caregiver-child interaction in more substantive ways.
  - Satisfaction in being a caregiver.
  - Caregiver knowledge and skill in parenting and child development.
  - Caregiver expectations and empathy for a child.
  - Decision making in parenting practices.
  - Parenting style.
  - History of parenting behavior.
  - Protectiveness.
  
- **How does the caregiver function with respect to daily life management and general adaptation including substance use and mental health functioning?** Caregiver functioning is concerned with how the adults/caregivers in the family feel, think and act on a daily basis. The question here focuses on adult functioning separate from parenting.
  - Communication and social skills.
  - Coping and stress management.
  - Self control.
  - Problem solving.
  - Judgment and decision making.
  - Independence.
  - Home and financial management.
  - Employment.
  - Rationality.
  - Substance use.
  - Mental health.
  - Physical health and capacity.
  - Functioning within cultural norms.

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