

Caregiver Needs

The items in this section represent potential areas of need for caregivers while simultaneously highlighting the areas in which the caregivers can be a resource for the child. In general, it is recommended that the caregiver (or caregivers) with whom the child is currently living be rated. If the child has been placed temporarily, then focus on the caregiver to whom the child will be returned. If it is a long-term foster care placement, then rate that caregiver(s). If the child is currently in a congregate care setting, such as a hospital, shelter, group home, or residential treatment center it would be more appropriate to rate the community caregivers where the child will be placed upon discharge from congregate care. It is advised to focus on the planned permanent caregiver in this section.

For situations in which a child has multiple caregivers it is recommended to rate based on the needs of the set of caregivers as they affect the child. For example, the supervisory capacity of a father who is not involved in monitoring or disciplining of a child may not be relevant to the ratings. Alternatively, if the father is responsible for the children because he works the first shift and the mother works the second shift, then his skills should be factored into the ratings of the child's supervision.

For Caregiver Needs the following definitions and action levels are used:

- 0 = There is no evidence of any needs. This could be a potential resource for the child.
- 1 = An identified need requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive activities. The caregiver may require help or resources in this area.
- 2 = Action or intervention is required to ensure that the identified need or risk behavior is address as it is currently interfering with the caregiver's ability to parent or support the child.
- 3 = An identified need that requires immediate or intensive action as it is currently preventing the caregiver from effectively parenting or supporting the child.

Questions to Consider for this Domain: What are the strengths and needs of the child's caregiver(s)?
Please rate for the past 30 days.

57. SUPERVISION - This item rates the caregiver's ability to monitor and discipline the child. Discipline is defined in the broadest sense, and includes all of the things that parents/caregivers can do to promote positive behavior with their children. A mother who reports frequent arguments with her teenage son who is not following house rules, is staying out all night, and may be using drugs or alcohol would receive a rating of '2' because her current parenting is not effective in monitoring and disciplining her child.

Questions to Consider

- How do caregivers keep an eye on and discipline their child/children?
- Do caregivers think they need some help with these issues?

Ratings & Definitions

- 0** No evidence caregiver needs help or assistance in monitoring or disciplining the child and/or caregiver has good monitoring and discipline skills.
- 1** There is a history or suspicion of need for assistance monitoring or disciplining child, but caregiver generally provides adequate supervision. Caregiver may need occasional help or assistance.
- 2** Caregiver reports difficulties monitoring and/or disciplining the child. Caregiver needs assistance to improve supervision skills.
- 3** Caregiver is unable to monitor or discipline the child. Caregiver requires immediate and continuing assistance. Child is at risk of harm due to absence of supervision.

58. INVOLVEMENT WITH CARE - This item rates the caregiver's participation in the child's care and ability to advocate for the Child. A '0' on this item is reserved for caregivers who are able to advocate for their child and who participate in services. This requires knowledge of their child, their rights, options, and opportunities. A '1' is used to indicate caregivers who are willing participants with service provision, but who may not yet be able to serve as advocates for their child. A '2' would indicate a parent who does not wish to participate in child's treatment or is so emotionally exhausted that they are unable to effectively assist the child in treatment right now

Questions to Consider

- How involved are the caregivers in services for the child?
- Is the caregiver an advocate?
- Would they like any help to become more involved?

Ratings & Definitions

- 0** No evidence of problems with caregiver involvement in services or interventions and/or caregiver is able to act as an effective advocate for child.
- 1** There is a history or suspicion of need for assistance seeking help, and/or caregiver has history of seeking help for their child. Caregiver is open to receiving support, education, and information.
- 2** Caregiver does not actively involve him/herself in services and/or interventions intended to assist.
- 3** Caregiver wishes for child to be removed from their care.

59. KNOWLEDGE - This item identifies the caregiver's knowledge of the child's strengths and needs.

Questions to Consider

- How comfortable are the caregivers w/what they know about their child's needs?
- How much of what professionals tell them about their child do they understand?
- Are the caregivers/parents interested in knowing more about their child?

Ratings & Definitions

- 0** Caregiver is knowledgeable about the child's needs and strengths.
- 1** Caregiver is generally knowledgeable about the child but may require additional information to improve their capacity of parent.
- 2** Caregiver has clear need for information to improve how knowledgeable s/he is about the needs of child. . Current lack of information is interfering with their ability to parent.
- 3** Caregiver has knowledge problems that place the child at risk of significant negative outcomes.

60. ORGANIZATION - This item rates the caregiver's ability to manage their household within the context of community services.

Questions to Consider

- Do caregivers need or want help with managing their home?
- Do they have difficulty getting to appointments, managing a schedule?
- Do they have difficulty getting their child to appointments or school?

Ratings & Definitions

- 0** Caregiver is well organized and efficient.
- 1** Caregiver has minimal difficulties with organizing and maintaining household to support needed services. For example, may be forgetful about appointments or occasionally fails to return case manager calls.
- 2** Caregiver has moderate difficulty organizing and maintaining household to support needed services.
- 3** Caregiver is unable to organize household to support needed services.

61. RESOURCES - This item rates the financial and social assets (extended family) and resources that the caregiver(s) can bring to bear in addressing the multiple needs of the child and family.

Questions to Consider	Ratings & Definitions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Does family have extended family or friends who provide emotional support? → Can they call on social supports to watch the child occasionally? → Do the parents/ caregivers have enough of what they need to meet the family's needs? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0 Caregiver has sufficient resources and significant social and family networks that actively help with caregiving. 1 Caregiver has necessary resources and some family or friend social network that actively helps with caregiving. 2 Caregiver has limited resources some family or friend social network that may be able to help with parenting/caregiving. 3 Caregiver has severely limited resources and no family or social network to help with parenting/caregiving.

62. RESIDENTIAL STABILITY- This item rates the housing stability of the caregiver(s) and does not include the likelihood that the child will be removed from the household.

Questions to Consider	Ratings & Definitions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Is the family current housing situation stable? → Are there concerns that they might have to move in the near future? → Has family lost their housing? → Does the family move often? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0 Caregiver has stable housing for the foreseeable future. 1 Caregiver has relatively stable housing but either has moved in the past three months or there are indications of housing problems that might force him/her to move in the next three months. 2 Caregiver has moved multiple times in the past year. Housing is unstable. 3 Caregiver has experienced periods of homelessness in the past six months.

63. PHYSICAL - This item refers to medical and/or physical problems that the caregiver(s) may be experiencing that prevent or limit his or her ability to parent the child. This item does not rate depression or other mental health issues.

Questions to Consider	Ratings & Definitions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → How is the caregiver's health? → Does s/he have any health problems that limit their ability to care for the family? → Does anyone else in the family have serious physical needs that the caregiver is taking care of? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0 Caregiver is generally healthy. 1 There is a history or suspicion of, and/or caregiver is in recovery from medical/physical problems. 2 Caregiver has medical/physical problems that interfere with his or her capacity to parent. 3 Caregiver has medical/physical problems that make parenting impossible at this time.

64. MENTAL HEALTH - This item refers to any serious mental health issues (not including substance abuse) among caregivers that might limit their capacity for parenting/caregiving to child. A parent with a serious mental illness would likely be rated a '2' or even a '3' depending on the impact of the illness. A parent whose mental illness is currently well controlled by medication and therapy, however, might be rated a '1'.

Questions to Consider	Ratings & Definitions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Do caregivers have any mental health needs that make parenting difficult? → Does anyone else in the family have serious mental health needs that the caregiver is taking care of? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0 No evidence of caregiver mental health difficulties. 1 There is a history or suspicion of mental health difficulties, and/or caregiver is in recovery from mental health difficulties. 2 Caregiver has some mental health difficulties that interfere with his or her capacity to parent. 3 Caregiver has mental health difficulties that make it impossible for him/her to parent at this time.

65. SUBSTANCE USE - This item rates the impact of any notable substance use by caregivers that might limit their capacity to provide care for the child. If substance use interferes with the user's ability to parent, a rating of '2' is indicated. If substance use prevents a caregiver from providing adequate care, a rating of '3' is warranted. A '1' indicates that a caregiver is currently in recovery, or is used when substance use is suspected but is not confirmed.

Questions to Consider

- Do caregivers have any substance abuse needs that make parenting difficult?
- Does anyone else in the family have a serious substance abuse need that is impacting the resources for caregiving?

Ratings & Definitions

- 0** No evidence of caregiver substance use issues.
There is a history of, suspicion or mild use of substances and/or caregiver is in recovery from substance abuse difficulties where there is no interference in his/her ability to parent.
- 1** Caregiver has some substance abuse difficulties that interfere with his or her capacity to parent.
- 2** Caregiver has substance abuse difficulties that make it impossible for him/her to parent at this time.

66. DEVELOPMENTAL - This item describes the presence of limited cognitive capacity or developmental disabilities that challenges his or her ability to parent.

Questions to Consider

- Do the caregivers have developmental challenges that make parenting/caring for the child difficult?

Ratings & Definitions

- 0** Caregiver has no developmental needs.
- 1** Caregiver has developmental challenges but they do not currently interfere with parenting.
- 2** Caregiver has developmental challenges that interfere with their capacity to parent.
- 3** Caregiver has severe developmental challenges that make it impossible for him/her to parent at this time.

67. SAFETY - This item describes the caregiver's ability to maintain safety within the household. This rating refers to the safety of the child assessed. It does not refer to the safety of other family or household members based on any danger presented by the assessed child.

Questions to Consider

- Is the caregiver able to protect the Child from harm in the home?
- Are there individuals living in the home or visiting the home that may be abusive to the child?

Ratings & Definitions

- 0** Household is safe and secure. Child is at no risk from others.
- 1** Household is safe but concerns exist about the safety of the child due to history or others who might be abusive.
- 2** Child is in some danger from one or more individuals with access to the household.
- 3** Child is in immediate danger from one or more individuals with unsupervised access.

68. FAMILY STRESS - This is the impact of the child’s behavioral and emotional needs on the family’s stress level. A family that is so stressed by a child’s behavior that parents/caregivers are requesting the child be removed from their responsibility would receive a rating of ‘3’. Evaluations of stress can reflect the physical or time burdens of caring for the child, or the emotional impact of the child’s needs on the family.

Questions to Consider

- Do caregivers find it stressful at times to manage the challenges in dealing with the child’s needs?
- Is the stress hard for them to manage at times?
- Does the stress ever interfere with ability to care for the child?

Ratings & Definitions

- 0** No evidence of caregiver having difficulty managing the stress of the child’s needs and/or caregiver is able to manage the stress of child’s needs.
- 1** There is a history or suspicion and/or caregiver has some problems managing the stress of child’s needs.
- 2** Caregiver has notable problems managing the stress of child’s needs. This stress interferes with his or her capacity to provide care.
- 3** Caregiver is unable to manage the stress associated with child’s needs. This stress prevents caregiver from parenting.

69. LEGAL - This item rates the caregiver’s involvement with the justice system. This includes any legal issues related to immigration.

Questions to Consider

- Has the caregiver been arrested?
- Is one or more caregiver incarcerated or on probation?

Ratings & Definitions

- 0** Caregiver has no known legal difficulties.
- 1** Caregiver has a history of legal problems but currently is not involved with the legal system.
- 2** Caregiver has some legal problems and is currently involved in the legal system.
- 3** Caregiver has serious current or pending legal difficulties. A caregiver may be incarcerated.