

Title: Child Welfare Manual
Section 7: Glossary/Reference
Chapter 35: Sample Questions for Worker/Child Visits
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Section 7 Overview:

Section 7 is the glossary and reference chapters. The terms in this glossary are legal, medical, psychological, and practice terms commonly used by Children's Division (CD). However, some of the definitions may not reflect the meaning that the general public uses. The reference material follows the glossary. The reference chapters are on a variety of subjects that supplement the policy and procedures covered in this manual.

Chapter 35 Overview

This chapter gives examples of questions workers can ask children during worker/child visits.

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35.1 Sample Questions for Worker/Child Visits

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35.1 Sample Questions for Worker/Child Visits

Examples of Questions to Ask Children:

- **Engagement:** How are things going? Tell me what's happened in your life since _____.
- **School:** How are you doing in school? What do you like about school?
- **Long-term goals/transitions for older youth:** How are you going to support yourself after graduation? What skills do you have that will aid you in obtaining and keeping a job? What kinds of things are you learning in school that will help you obtain and keep a job?
- **Family:** Now I need to ask you a few questions about you and your family. What are some things you enjoy doing? What are some things your family does for fun together? Do you get along with your mother? Father? Sisters? Brothers? Have there been any big changes between you and your mom or dad in the last year?
- **Friends, Interests:** Tell me about your friends in your neighborhood or at school? What are some kinds of things you like to do together? Is there anything you'd like to do, like having a hobby or being in a club that you haven't been able to do for some reason? Why? Why not?
- **Safety/Well-being:** Who do you feel close to? So you talk to this person or to someone else when you are worried or concerned about something? What are the things in your life that make you worried, afraid, or nervous (stressors)? Do you talk to someone about these situations? Do you feel safe in your home? Is there anything that could be changed to make your home a safer place to live? What would you like to be different in your life? What would you like to be different in the life of your family? Which of these changes will you and your family need help with? Do you think you and your family will be together this time next year? What help does your family need to stay together?
- **Services and Plan:** Do you have any other caseworker(s) or counselors? Do you think your caseworker(s) or counselor is helping you and your family? Since _____ [within the last 3 months] how often have you seen your caseworker(s) or counselor? Can you tell me in your own words what the plan is for you and your family? What help does your family need to stay together? What can I do to help you and your family? How are these things supposed to make things better for you and your family? If you had your choice, what types of help would you be getting? What do you think about the help you are getting? Is it making things better for you and your family? Is there anything else you would like to tell me about you and your family? Or about your services or plan? Or the help you need?

- **Placement:** How are you and your foster family getting along? Do you think you and your foster family are a good match? Why/Why not? Are there any other children or adults who live here? If yes, how do you get along with them? What are some things you and your foster family do for fun? Do your parents live together? Do you ever get to see your parents? Mother? Father? How often do you visit with your parents? Mother? Father? Do you get along with your mother and father during these visits? Have there been any big changes between you and mom or dad in the last year? Where do you visit your parents? Mother? Father? How often do you call your parents? Mother? Father? Do you know why you are not living with your parents? Mother? Father? Do you want to live with your parents? Mother? Father? What is being done so you can live with your parents? Mother? Father? Do you know where each of your brothers and sisters live? How often do you speak to your brothers and sisters on the telephone? How often do you see your brothers and sisters? What kind of things do you do with them? What help does your family need so you can live together or what would need to be different for you to live with your parents? Mother? Father? Where do you think you will be living next year? Where do you want to be living in a year? Is there anything else you would like to tell me about you and your parents?

Reviewing Well-Being & Permanency with Caregivers
Living Arrangements:

- Show me the child's personal belongings, books or other things s/he plays with. How does this child comfort himself/herself?
- Show me the child's bedroom. Who else lives in this room? How does the child get along with the others in the family?
- What type of chores or expectations do you have for this child?

Daily Routine:

- Describe a typical day for this child.
- If you had to teach this child a new skill, like cleaning the house, how would you do that?
- Describe a typical time when the child did not follow a rule. How does this child comply with your requests and demands? When the child does not follow family rules what type of discipline do you use? How does the child respond to this?

Social/Emotional:

- Have you seen any signs that the child is feeling grief or loss, or is traumatized by the events in his/her life? What are they? How have you tried to help the child handle this? Have the behaviors/emotions gotten better or worse?
- Describe how the child transitioned into your home/family. What have you been able to do to help the child transition? (For example, cook food s/he is familiar with, have pictures of his/her family in the bedroom, have books or music from the child's home, etc.)
- How does this child show warmth and affection? What does s/he do when s/he is happy? How does the child show that s/he is upset, hurt, sad or feeling other emotions?
- Who does this child seek comfort from when s/he is hurt, frightened, or ill?
- Is this child able to seek you out and accept your help when needed?
- Does this child show preference for a particular adult?
- What does this child do when upset? How easy is it to soothe this child when s/he is upset?
- How does this child comply with your requests and demands?
- How has this child changed since coming here? What do you think about that? In what ways has the child adjusted to this placement?
- Is this child involved in any religious activities? Any cultural activities?

Family and Friends:

- Have you met the child's parents/siblings/family? What happened when you met them? Do you have any concerns or questions about the family?
- Who does the child talk to, play with, or spend time with? Is the child's behavior different with these people than with you? In what ways?
- Is the child allowed to call friends from your home? Have friends over for a visit? Visit a friend's home?

Special Interests:

- What kinds of things does this child like to do? What does the child do besides school and case activities?

- What are this child's special talents?
- What do you do to support the child in being involved in things s/he likes to do? Do you need any help to do this?

Education:

- Would you describe this child as developmentally typical or not? Can you give me examples of his/her behaviors/skills? Do you think the child needs any help with any developmental skills?
- How is the child doing in school? Who is her/his teacher(s)? Have you gone to a school conference or received any reports from school? Can I see them so I can make a copy of the file? If the child were to have troubles at school, who would you contact?
- Has the child begun to attend a school where s/he has multiple teachers? How has the child transitioned into his/her new school? Is the school very different from the last school the child attended? (Going from a single teacher to multiple teachers is one example of a large transition for a child this age.)

Health:

- Who is taking the child to medical examinations? Who decides what type of medical care (even routine care such as immunization shots) the child should have? Does the child have any special medical problems? Do you know how to provide the care for this type of condition? Where do you keep the child's medical records? Show me any recent medical report so I can have a copy for the child's records.
- Describe the child's sleeping pattern. Describe the child's eating habits.
- Have you seen any weight changes since this child has been with you? Any other type of changes? Has the child begun the physical changes into adolescence? Who is talking to the child about these changes?

Case Planning:

- Is this child receiving any educational, medical and/or psychological services? Which ones? How often? What do you think/feel about these? Do you think that the services are meeting this child's needs? Are there any other services that you think this child needs?
- What is your greatest fear about your child returning home? What is your greatest fear if your child does not return home?

- When the child visits his/her parents or other family members, what happens? How does the child behave before or after the visit? What do you think of the family visits with the child?
- What are the case goals for this child and his/her family and what do you think/feel about those goals? What makes them okay; not okay?
- If the child goes home, how do you imagine you might still be involved with the child and his/her family? If the child cannot go home to any family member, how might you imagine being involved with the child?
- What is the permanency goal for this child? What do you think/feel about this? What makes it okay; not okay?
- How have you been included in the family conferences/treatment/team case planning meetings? What is your role in achieving the case goals?
- What do you need to know or tell me about the child that would help all of us do a better job making of this child safe and getting him/her a permanent family?

Self Care:

- On a scale of one to ten, with ten being the easiest child you have ever cared for, how easy is it to parent this child? Describe who this child is. What about the child is easiest and most pleasurable? What is the most difficult aspect of this child for you to deal with? What are the things about this child that you think will help him/her in the future? What do you think might be harder for him/her?
- Tell me how you handle the stress of having this child in your home. What do you do to take care of yourself?
- What are your concerns right now? How can I help you?
- What was/is it like for you to care for this child? What has been the effect on your family of having this child placed in your home? What did you expect it to be like? Help me understand what it has been like for you dealing with this child.
- To whom do you go if things aren't going too well?
- What things do you need to support your continued care of this child?

These questions were retrieved from the National Resource Center for Family-Centered Practice and Permanency Planning.

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