

Quick reference guide for FSCP case mapping with family members

Questions to ask about 'Past Harm'

- What was it that was happening in your family and to your children that led to CPS being involved with your family/that led to your children being taken into care?
- If your caseworker from CS was here, what would they say about why your children were taken into care?
- You said that you were using drugs/fighting with your partner/drinking a lot etc. How did your drug use/fighting/drinking affect your kids?

Questions to ask about 'Complicating Factors'

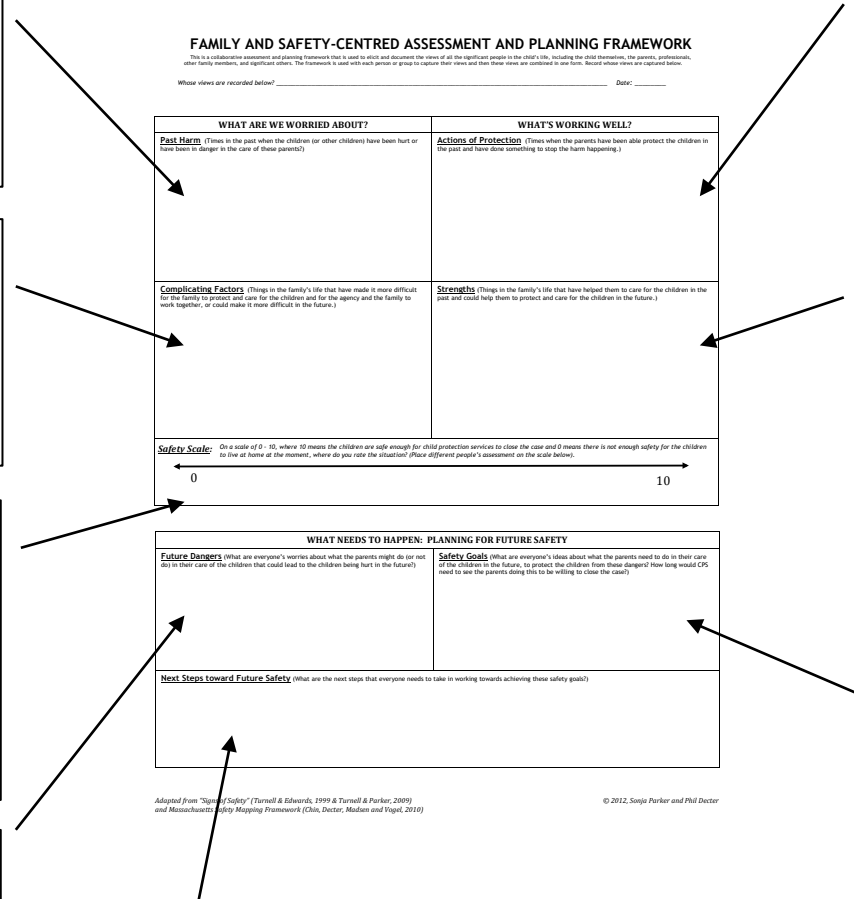
- Are there things happening in your life that make it more difficult for you to sort out these issues and make sure that your children will be safe in the future? What are these things?
- What do you think makes it harder for your family to deal with the things that everyone is worried about?

Questions to explore the 'safety scale'

- On a scale of 0 – 10, where 10 means the children are safe enough in your case for CS to close the case and 0 means there is not enough safety for the children to live at home at the moment, where would you rate the situation right now?
- What's happening in your family and what are you doing that has you scaling as high as a 3? What else?
- What's happening in your family and what are you

Questions to ask about 'Future Danger'

- We've talked about some things that are not going so well in your family at the moment. If these problems were to continue, what are you worried might happen in the future that could lead to your children being hurt? What else are you worried might happen?
- What do you think ___ (children/family members/others) are worried might happen to your children if they come home to live with you/if nothing was to change in your family? What else?
- What do you think I am worried might happen to your children in the future if they came home to live with you/if nothing changes in your family? What else do you think I'm worried might happen?



Questions to ask about 'Actions of Protection'

- Has there ever been a time when (the problem) could have happened, almost did happen, but somehow you were able to do something different?
- Can you tell me about a time you have been able to look after your kids and make sure that they weren't hurt or affected by the problems, even though you were dealing with these other difficult things?

Questions to ask about 'Strengths'

- What do you think is going well in your family?
- What do you think has stopped things from getting worse?
- What would your children (or others) say is going well in your family?
- Who are the people who support you and help you when things are not going so well?

Questions to ask about 'Safety Goals'

- If I was to come back in 6 months time and you were to tell me that all of these problems had been resolved, what would I see happening in your family that would show me that the issues had been resolved?
- If things were at the best for your family, what would be happening? What would you be doing as a parent if things were at their best?
- If this is what CS are worried might happen to your children (the danger statements), what do you think CS would need to see you doing *instead*, in your care of the children, to be confident that your children are safe?

Questions to ask about 'Next Steps'

- So if these are the safety goals, what do you think are the next steps that everyone needs to take to work toward these safety goals being achieved?
- You rated the situation 7 out of 10 on the safety scale. What do you think needs to happen next to move things up one step, to say a 7 and a half?
- What do you think ___ (children/family members/CS/others) would say are the next steps that need to happen to work toward these safety goals being achieved?