

Quick reference for FSCP case consultations

Questions to ask about 'Past Harm'

- What has happened to the children that led to child protection services being involved with the family?
- How do we know this happened? Who reported?
- When did this occur?
- How often has this happened?
- What was it that the parents' did (or didn't do) that led to the child being harmed in this way?

Questions to ask about 'Complicating Factors'

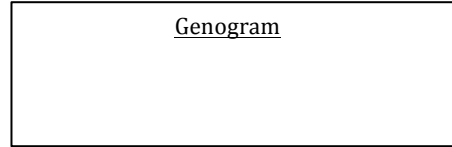
- What things are happening in or for the family that make it harder for them to protect the children from the dangers?
- What would the family say makes it harder for them to deal with the things that everyone is worried about?
- What things are happening in the family that make it harder for the family to work with CPS?

Questions to explore the 'safety scale'

- On a scale of 0 – 10, where 10 means the children are safe enough for you to close the case and 0 means the situation is so bad that the children need to be in someone else's care at the moment, where would you rate the situation right now?
- What are the parents doing that brings your rating of the children's safety as high as a 3? What else they doing that has you rating as high as a 3? What else?
- What things have happened or are happening in the family that have you scaling as low as a 3?

Questions to ask about 'Future Danger'

- What are you worried might happen to the children in the future if they are in the care of these parents and nothing changes in the family?
- What are you worried these parents might do in the future that could lead to the children being hurt or in danger? Is anyone else worried about this?
- What are your worst fears about what might happen to the children in the care of these parents?
- Looking at the past harm and complicating factors, is there anything else you are worried may happen to these children in the parents' care in the future?



FAMILY AND SAFETY-CENTRED ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING FRAMEWORK

This is a collaborative assessment and planning framework that is used to elicit and document the views of all the significant people in the child's life, including the child themselves, the parents, professionals, other family members, and significant others. The framework is used with each person or group to explore their views and then these views are collated in one form. Repeat where views are updated below.

Whose views are recorded below? _____ Date: _____

WHAT ARE WE WORRIED ABOUT?	WHAT'S WORKING WELL?
Past Harm (Times in the past when the children (or other children) have been hurt or have been in danger in the care of their parents?)	Actions of Protection (Times when the parents have been able to protect the children in the past and have done something to stop the harm happening.)
Complicating Factors (Things in the family's life that have made it more difficult for the family to protect and care for the children and for the agency and the family to work together, or could make it more difficult in the future.)	Strengths (Things in the family's life that have helped them to care for the children in the past and could help them to protect and care for the children in the future.)
Safety Scale: On a scale of 0 – 10, where 10 means the children are safe enough for child protection services to close the case and 0 means there is not enough safety for the children to live at home at the moment, where do you rate the situation? (Place different people's assessment on the scale below.)	

WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN: PLANNING FOR FUTURE SAFETY	
Future Dangers (What are everyone's worries about what the parents might do (or not do) in their care of the children that could lead to the children being hurt in the future?)	Safety Goals (What are everyone's ideas about what the parents need to do in their care of the children in the future, to protect the children from these dangers? How long would CPS need to see the parents doing this to be willing to close the case?)
Next Steps toward Future Safety (What are the next steps that everyone needs to take in working towards achieving these safety goals?)	

Adapted from "Skills of Safety" (Turnell & Edwards, 1999 & Turnell & Parker, 2009) and Massachusetts Safety Mapping Framework (Chiu, Decker, Madson and Vogel, 2010) © 2012, Sonja Parker and Phil Decker

Questions to ask about 'Actions of Protection'

- Do you know about any times when these children could have been harmed but weren't, because of something that the parents did?
- Have there been times when these parents have been able to look after their children well enough or have been able to keep their children safe in relation to the things we are worried about?

Questions to ask about 'Strengths'

- What is happening in the family that has helped the family to care for the children and will help the parents to protect and care for the children in the future?
- What would the family say is going well that will help them to build safety for the children?
- What else is going well in the family?

Questions to ask about 'Safety Goals'

- If this is what you are worried might happen (the danger statements), what do you need to see the parents doing *instead*, in their care of the children, to be satisfied that the children are safe enough to close the case?
- And if Dad was to get angry/the parents were to use drugs etc (whatever dangerous context you have identified), what would you need to see them doing differently in their care of the children that would tell you that the children were safe?
- If right now you rate the safety for these children at a 4, what would you need to see the parents doing in their care of the children for you to rate the children's safety at a 10?
- What do you think the parents would say they need to be doing in caring for their children to satisfy CPS that the children will be safe in the future?
- How long would you need to see the parents doing this for, to be confident that this safe and protective behaviour will continue once you close the case?

Questions to ask about 'Next Steps'

- So if that is the safety goal, what do you think are the next steps in working with the family to help them move toward achieving that safety goal?
- What do you think the parents or the children would say is the next step in working toward the safety goals being achieved?
- You rated the situation 3 out of 10 on the safety scale. What needs to happen next to move things up one step, to say a 3 and a half?