

**TN**

Department of  
**Children's Services**



# Documentation of the Foster Family Home Study

Office of Child Programs

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**Office of Child Programs**

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# THE FOSTER FAMILY HOME STUDY PROCESS

## Definition

An ongoing process that uses the case management skill of family engagement to gather and analyze information and identify family strengths and underlying needs, so that home study writer can make knowledgeable decisions that will result in approval of quality foster homes, child safety and permanency.

The home study process is designed to support the DCS Practice Wheel, the Guiding Principles of Tennessee child welfare practice, and high-quality casework. The home study process integrates many key components of the practice model and unifies many DCS efforts to help foster families succeed include:

- ◆ Analyzing the foster family's understanding of the physical, emotional, educational, and vocational needs of the children placed in Tennessee's child welfare system,
- ◆ Understanding and analyzing risk and safety concerns;
- ◆ Assessing family history including cultural, character and ethical considerations and its potential impact on foster children placed in the home; and
- ◆ Assessing training needs and family interactions through visitation.

The home study process:

- ◆ Is family centered, strength-based, and culturally responsive;
- ◆ Leads to a shared understanding between the agency and foster parents;
- ◆ Identifies family strengths and solutions;
- ◆ Identifies signs of safety and signs of risk; and
- ◆ Identifies foster family gaps in understanding.

## Documentation of Home Study Information

Form [CS-0961 Foster Family Home Study](#) is the evidence of the successful engagement of potential foster families in a meaningful, professional social work relationship intended to document the approval or denial of a foster family.

Remember, you are telling the family story to an audience who has never met the family. Be as detailed and descriptive as possible.

Interviews will be conducted with all available sources. Before a home study writer conducts an interview with any potential foster family, the worker will prepare for the interview -- have a clear focus for the interview yet be flexible enough to allow the interview to proceed as the foster family would like. Workers should not feel limited to asking only the suggested questions in this manual. Ask anything else that might provide a more accurate and detailed picture of foster family. .

Identified significant strengths and any areas of need based on the [\*Profile of Parenting Study \(POPS\) Tool\*](#) must be included in the home study. The tool documents the “what”, the home study documents the “why”. Collateral documentation may be obtained through forms, medical records, mental health records/evaluations, court records, police reports, and reports from other agencies or departments that have had contact with the family. When diagnostic psychiatric, medical, or psychological terminology is used in the home study document, include an explanation of the diagnostic statement based upon the writer’s understanding of the information. When the writer recognizes a newly identified strength, an improved ability or coping skill, a solution to a problem, or a new risk, concern or indication of an underlying need, appropriate documentation will be made in the home study.

## Steps in the Foster Family Home Study Process

The **first** step in the home study process is gathering information from the family based on interviews and observations and any supporting forms or other documentation. Home study writers are to conduct at least one individual in-person interview with each prospective foster parent and one joint interview for co-applicant homes. Age-and developmentally appropriate interviews are to occur with each child and adult living in the home. The home study writer is to conduct a minimum of two home visits in which a safety assessment of the home is completed and an observation of family members interacting together can occur.

Additionally, an attempted consultation is to occur with each minor and/or adult child living outside the home either by phone call, letter, or email. Refusal by the prospective foster parent to share contact information or the minor or adult child living outside the home to speak with the home study writer is to be documented and considered for home approval.

**More interviews may be needed depending upon the necessity to follow up and clarify information given by the foster family.**

The home study writer uses the home study process to seek missing information, receive information from external sources and records, prioritize training needs, find strengths to be used in supporting the family, and to draw conclusions from available information.

### Interview 1

- ◆ Applicant and Co-Applicant Information
  - Motivation for Foster Parenting
  - Family History
    - Foster Family Applicant Questionnaire (applicant may need assistance in completing)
    - Pre-service Training Experience
- ◆ Household Member Information

- Interview all Other Adults in the home and children (custody, birth or adopted) in the home
- Family interaction
- ◆ Home/Neighborhood Description, Foster Parent Capacity, Family Character, Ethics and Values
- ◆ Begin POPS Assessment Tool
- ◆ Collect forms from family, review for completion. (Refer to policy [16.23, Foster Home Records](#))

## Interview 2

- ◆ Complete POPS Assessment Tool
- ◆ Review Applicant/Co-Applicant Information or Household Information with family for any missing or follow up information
- ◆ Collect forms from family, review for completion. (Refer to policy [16.23, Foster Home Records](#))

## Interview 3

- ◆ Review Home/Neighborhood Description, Foster Parenting Capacity & POPS Assessment Tool for any missing or follow up information
- ◆ Collect forms from family, review for completion. (Refer to DCS policy [16.23 Foster Home Records](#))
- ◆ Review all information with family for any missing or follow up information
- ◆ If necessary, collect forms from family, review for completion. (Refer to DCS policy [16.23 Foster Home Records](#))
- ◆ Discuss Recommendations

The **second** step in the home study process is for the home study writer or contract agency staff, with the support of their supervisor, to sort out the information gathered and write the home study. The home study will include a recommendation supported by documentation to approve or deny the applicant(s) for home approval.

DCS Foster Parent Support (FPS) staff will review the home study and consider the recommendation, returning the home study for corrections or clarification prior to signing as approved.

The **final** step in the home study process is to review the home study with the family and obtain foster parent signatures.

# NARRATIVE GUIDE FOR THE FOSTER FAMILY HOME STUDY

The following information is the minimal requirements for completing the Home Study narrative. This is not an exhaustive listing of possible issues/information that may be included in a home study. Refer to the list of possible questions to ask at the end of this document.

## ***V. Motivation for Foster Parenting***

A narrative describing the Applicant and Co-Applicant's motivation to become a foster parent including an assessment of the Applicant and Co-Applicant's understanding of the foster to adopt process.

**Reference:** Interview notes, Foster Family History Questionnaire

## ***VI. Pre-Service Training Experience***

A narrative describing the Applicant and Co-Applicant's experience in Pre-service training from their point of view. The narrative will also document any strengths or needs identified on the Pre-service Assessment. Summarize waivers of any Pre-service noted on form [CS-0921 Waiver of Criminal Convictions, Pre- and In-Service Training Modifications, Non-Safety Issue and CPS Indications](#) that have been approved for Pre-service training.

### **References:**

- ◆ Pre-service Assessment form;
- ◆ Interview notes

## ***VII. Home/Neighborhood Description***

A narrative to include a description and assessment of the physical description of the home, description of neighborhood (*e.g.*, Suburban/Rural/Urban, *etc.*); Crime Rate; Proximity and accessibility to local fosters (*e.g.*, hospitals, transit routes, *etc.*); schools that the home is zoned for; access to transportation (*e.g.*, valid driver's license, current registration, current insurance, child safety seats, *etc.*); and any issues/concerns about the neighborhood. Describe the number of pets (include information about pet vaccinations).

Include a summary of any waiver of non-safety issues related to the home documented on form [CS-0921 Waiver of Criminal Convictions, Pre- and In-Service Training Modifications, Non-Safety Issue and CPS Indications](#) that have been approved.

Describe relationships with neighbors.

Summarize the results noted on form [CS-0676](#) by section paying special attention to adherence to guns and ammunition, fire extinguishers, smoke alarms, and pool safety.

Describe identified significant strengths and needs in POPS Tool Section I Question 25, VIII, Questions 53-55.

**Reference:**

- ♦ [CS-0670 Foster Parent Oath to Abide](#)

**VIII. Family History Information**

**A. Childhood & Adolescence History**

**1. Relationship History**

Describe relationships with past caregivers/parents and siblings. Include the birth name of applicant and the names of the parents. What was their life like as a child? What about adolescence? How did they relate with their siblings? How were they raised? Who raised them? If the Applicant mother, father or primary caregiver are deceased, give the date and cause of death.

**References:**

- ♦ [CS-0962 Foster Parent Applicant Questionnaire](#)
- ♦ Interview notes

**2. Well Being History**

Discuss early developmental history, any physical problems or hospitalizations, mental health problems, drug/alcohol use and services received or any traumatic or domestic violence incidents that may have occurred in childhood or adolescence.

**References:**

- ♦ [CS-0962 Foster Parent Applicant Questionnaire](#)
- ♦ Interview notes

**3. Legal/DCS History**

Discuss behavioral or delinquency problems, history of abuse, neglect or, involvement with DCS or the court as a child or adolescent.

Describe identified significant strengths and needs in POPS Tool Section VI, Questions 45 & 46.

**References:**



- ◆ [CS-0962 Foster Parent Applicant Questionnaire](#)
- ◆ Interview notes

## **B. Adulthood**

### **1. Relationship History**

Describe early dating and sexual relationships, current and past marital or partner relationships documenting all legal names used by the applicant as an adult. Describe current relationship with parents and siblings. Explain how they manage these relationships. Describe their current or past relationship with minor and adult birth or adopted children (residing in and out of the home) and current relationship other adults in the home.

Describe identified significant strengths and needs in POPS Tool Section IV Question 29-30

#### **References:**

- ◆ [CS-0962 Foster Parent Applicant Questionnaire](#)
- ◆ Interview notes

### **2. Well-Being History**

Discuss any hospitalizations since adulthood, any significant adulthood physical problems, drug/alcohol use, or mental health treatments received in this section. Describe trauma/domestic violence since adulthood. Identify any services currently being received for these issues. Discuss how or if these issues may affect the Applicant/Co-Applicant's ability to become approved foster parents or may affect children placed in the home.

The narrative must include an evaluation of the Applicant and Co-Applicant's physical health (including any medications or ongoing health conditions) impact on their ability to be foster parents. Summarize results of information on form [CS-0678 Foster Parent/Other Adult Medical Report](#)

Describe identified significant strengths and needs in POPS Tool Section IV Questions 39-44 and Section VIII Question 56

#### **References:**

- ◆ [CS-0962 Foster Parent Applicant Questionnaire](#)
- ◆ Interview notes

### 3. Legal/DCS History

Describe past/current criminal convictions, or charges/arrests since adulthood. Be as specific as possible. Also include a description of approved criminal convictions documented on form

[\*CS-0921 Waiver of Criminal Convictions, Pre- and In-Service Training Modifications, Non-Safety Issue and CPS Indications.\*](#)

Describe the results of the background check as reported on form [\*CS-0687 Background Check History and IV-E Eligibility Checklist\*](#) Include the date of completion of the check.

Describe identified significant strengths and needs in POPS Tool Section VIII Question 52.

#### References:

- ◆ [\*CS-0962 Foster Parent Applicant Questionnaire\*](#)
- ◆ Interview notes;
- ◆ DCS Policy [\*16.4 Foster Home Selection and Approval\*](#)

### C. Other Adults in the Home (including adult children)

#### 1. Relationship

Describe current relationship with Applicant and Co-Applicant. Discuss their potential interaction with the foster children to be placed in their home. The narrative must discuss significant strengths and concerns identified by the adult regarding the applicant's desire and ability to foster. Document all legal names used as an adult. The narrative will also discuss their relationship with birth or adopted children in the home.

#### References:

- ◆ [\*CS-0962 Foster Parent Applicant Questionnaire\*](#)
- ◆ Interview notes

#### 2. Well-Being History

Describe any physical problems, drug/alcohol use, or emotional/mental health issues. Identify any services currently being received for these issues. Discuss how, or if these issues may affect the Applicant/Co-Applicant's ability to become approved foster parents or may affect children placed in the home.

#### References:

- ◆ [\*CS-0962 Foster Parent Applicant Questionnaire\*](#)
- ◆ Interview notes

### 3. Legal/DCS History

Describe current background check results or involvement with DCS, also [CS-0921 Waiver of Criminal Convictions, Pre- and In-Service Training Modifications, Non-Safety Issue and CPS Indications](#) for other adults in the home.

Summarize the results of the background check as reported on form [CS-0687 Criminal History and IV-E Eligibility Checklist](#) Include the date of completion of the check.

Discuss any high-risk behaviors identified in POPS Tool Section IX

#### References:

- ◆ [CS-0962 Foster Parent Applicant Questionnaire](#)
- ◆ Interview notes;
- ◆ DCS Policy [16.4 Foster Home Selection and Approval](#)

### D. Minor Children (Birth or Adopted that reside in the home fulltime) - *Does not include any foster children placed in the home*

#### 1. Relationship

Describe current relationship with Applicant and Co-Applicant. Describe current relationship with Other Adults in the home.

#### Reference:

- ◆ Interview notes

#### 2. Well-Being History

Describe any physical problems, drug/alcohol use, or emotional/mental health issues. Identify any services currently being received for these issues. Discuss how or if these issues may affect the Applicant/Co-Applicant's ability to become approved foster parents or may affect children placed in the home.

Summarize the findings on form [CS-0427 Child's Medical Record](#) for each birth or adopted child living in the home.

#### Reference:

- ◆ Interview notes

#### 3. Legal/DCS History

Describe history of abuse, delinquency, neglect, trauma/domestic violence, or involvement with DCS.

Discuss any high-risk behaviors identified in POPS Tool Section IX

**Reference:**

- ◆ Interview notes

**E. Children Outside the Home (birth, adopted, minor and adult that reside outside the home)**

Describe current relationship with Applicant and Co-Applicant. Discuss their potential interaction with the foster children to be placed in their home. The narrative must discuss significant strengths and concerns identified by the adult child regarding the applicant's desire and ability to foster.

**Reference:**

- ◆ Consultation notes

**F. Family Interaction**

Provide a description and assessment about the interaction of the family unit including all children and household members. Discuss time spent together or activities that the family does together and their view of their lives.

The narrative will also include any hobbies, special interests or talents of the foster parent. Discuss any community groups (*e.g.*, religious, social, educational, recreational, *etc.*) that the family is involved with and its potential impact on fostering or adoption.

Describe any identified significant strengths and needs in POPS Tool Section IV Question 31 and Section V Questions 34 & 35

**References:**

- ◆ [CS-0962 Foster Parent Applicant Questionnaire](#)
- ◆ Interview notes

**IX. Foster Parenting Capacity**

**A. Ability**

The narrative, written from the Applicant and Co-applicant's point of view, will describe the type of children in which applicants believe they can foster and why. Evaluate how the applicants will collaborate with one another in child rearing. Discuss parenting style/child rearing practices. Describe their willingness to work with birth parents, DCS, Contract Agencies and other service providers.

The narrative will also include their understanding of their rights and responsibilities as foster and adoptive parents as outlined in the [Foster Parent's Bill of Rights](#) and the Department's right to close a home as outlined in policy [16.16 Denial, Closure or Suspended Admissions of Foster Homes](#) Fostering is a privilege, not a right!

Summarize the foster parent strengths and needs in narrative format.

Describe identified significant strengths and needs in POPS Section I, Section II Questions 14-21, & Section III Question 24, 26 & 27, Section IV Questions 28-29 & 32, Section V Questions 35-36 & 38, and Section VII Question 51

#### **References:**

- ◆ Interview notes;
- ◆ [CS-0962 Foster Parent Applicant Questionnaire](#)
- ◆ [Foster Parent's Bill of Rights](#)
- ◆ [CS-0553 Discipline Policy](#)
- ◆ [CS-0670 Foster Parent Oath to Abide](#)
- ◆ [CS-1217, Acknowledgement of Understanding Regarding Placement Acceptance](#)
- ◆ [CS-0559 Authorization for Release of Information and HIPAA Protected Health Information TO and FROM the Department of Children's Services and Notification of Release](#)

#### **B. Skills**

Discuss in the narrative any primary and secondary languages spoken and/or written in the home. Discuss the level of education identifying any deficiencies (*e.g.*, reading and communication) of the Applicant and Co-Applicant's and any possible impact on their ability to be foster parents.

Previous fostering/adopting experience (if applicable) including successes or failures are discussed in this section.

Summarize any specialized training (*e.g.*, education, employment, *etc.*) that the foster parents may already have that could contribute to their success. The narrative will also discuss any training needs identified by the foster parent based on their skills.

Describe in detail any significant strengths and needs in POPS Section II, Question 22 & 23 (if applicable).

**References:**

- ◆ Interview notes
- ◆ [CS-0688 Foster Home Application for Parenting](#)

**C. Support for Foster Parenting**

Describe the family's financial situation as indicated on form [CS-0431 Monthly Family Income and Expenditures](#) and employment (*e.g.*, shift, # of hours, *etc.*). Does the applicant operate a business from home? If so, what type.

In addition, the narrative must discuss the level of impact of their employment on their ability to be foster parents.

Family (including children and other adults in the home) and extended family's support for the Applicant and Co-Applicant's decision to foster/adopt are discussed in this section.

Discuss any informal supports in this section. Identify extended family members who are significant supports with the family and any alternate caregivers who have been identified. Describe the family's respite plan to maintain self-care. Describe the contingency plan for emergency situations.

Describe identified significant strengths and needs in POPS Tool Section IV Questions 30 & 32 and Section VII Question 47-50

**Reference:**

- ◆ [CS-0962 Foster Parent Applicant Questionnaire](#)
- ◆ [CS-0782 Family Eco-Map](#)
- ◆ [CS-0871 Foster Family Disaster Plan](#)

**X. Character, Ethics and Values**

**A. Foster Family Character, Ethics, & Values**

The narrative must include an evaluation of the Applicant and Co-Applicant's willingness and ability to parent a child with different values, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, political views, *etc.*, from their own family.

Family's description of their ethics and values (*e.g.*, family creeds, traditions, religious beliefs, cultural influences, *etc.*) will be in this section.

Describe how the family solves problems (from their point of view) and its potential impact on fostering or adoption.

Describe identified significant strengths and needs in POPS Tool Section IV Question 32 – 33 & Section V Question 36-38

**References:**

- ◆ [CS-0962 Foster Parent Applicant Questionnaire](#)
- ◆ Interview notes
- ◆ DCS Policy [16.3 Desired Characteristics of Foster Parents](#)
- ◆ [CS-1217, Acknowledgement of Understanding Regarding Placement Acceptance](#)

**B. References**

This section will include a summary of the responses from Applicant and Co-Applicant's references while keeping confidentiality of the references intact.

The narrative must discuss significant strengths and concerns identified by the references.

**References:**

- ◆ [CS-0688 Foster Home Application for Parenting](#)
- ◆ [CS-0963 Foster Family Reference Letter and Questionnaire](#)

***XI. Recommendations***

Approval or Denial decisions are documented in this section. The reason(s) for denial will be explained in this section.

The recommendation for approval **must** include:

Number of children and gender that the foster parents are approved for:

- ◆ Include Type of behaviors and age range of children that will work best for this family
- ◆ Include Child Specific (Kinship or ICPC) information, if applicable.

All immediate or specialized training needs that are identified must be documented. Any ongoing issues that need to be monitored must be discussed in this section.

Describe identified significant strengths and needs in POPS Tool Section VIII Question 52

**References:**

- ◆ DCS Policies [16.4 Foster Home Selection and Approval](#)
- ◆ [16.16 Denial, Closure or Suspended Admissions of Foster Homes](#)

## POSSIBLE QUESTIONS/STATEMENTS THAT MAY BE HELPFUL WITH THE HOME STUDY PROCESS

*The following questions/statements are examples to reinforce content suggestions for completing a home study. This is not an exhaustive listing of possible questions/ statements that may be included in a home study.*

- ◆ We have been talking about some serious matters. To give me a more balanced view, can you tell me some of the good qualities of your family/child/children?
- ◆ If you were describing yourself to others, what sort of things would you say you are good at?
- ◆ What do you most want me to know about your family?
- ◆ Can you remember a time when there was a crisis how you were able to handle it?
- ◆ Tell me about some of your parenting successes. Include any foster or adoptive experiences. Any struggles? ○ What do like about being a parent?
  
- ◆ What do you like about your child?
- ◆ What do you like about your [mother] [father]?
- ◆ Prior CPS referrals, including dates and classifications.
- ◆ Prior DCS custody episodes, including dates and circumstances.
- ◆ Delinquent history, including dates, charges, court, and final dispositions.
- ◆ Tell me about a time when you felt good about spending time with your child.
- ◆ Do you have any family routines which are important for your children to continue to follow?
- ◆ Tell me about your family holidays. How are birthdays celebrated in your family?



- ◆ Tell me about a typical daily routine. How do you get the children fed clothed and off to school? How do you get the children to bed?
- ◆ What happens when someone in your house gets angry? When [this] happens, what do you do?
- ◆ What do you do to keep your family safe? How do you/How will you keep children safe?
- ◆ How safe do you feel in your environment/home? Out with family or friends?
- ◆ If any, what needs to change to make children feel safer in your home?
- ◆ Tell me about a time when you haven't felt safe in your home? What was going on that made you feel not safe?

When you are not with your child, does your child do things that make you worry about his/her safety?

- ◆ What positive things do you get from your relationship with your partner?
- ◆ Who makes the important decisions in your family?
- ◆ What do you (and your partner/spouse) do for a break?
- ◆ How much time do you spend with family? Friends? Alone?
- ◆ Have you ever left because of violence in your home? If yes, where did you go? What gave you the courage to do this? How long were you gone?
- ◆ We all have ways of dealing with stress, like running, talking with a friend... and there also are negative ways for dealing with stress. For example, sometimes we eat too much or sleep too much or drink too much, what are helpful ways and negative ways you deal with stress?
- ◆ Tell me about the use of drug/or alcohol in your family. How do you think this has affected you? Or your child? What did you do to handle this?
- ◆ Tell me about any of your use of drugs or alcohol. Has anyone in your family ever thought you might have a problem with drugs or alcohol?
- ◆ Have you ever received help for drug or alcohol problems? When? Who provided it?
- ◆ How do you manage your recovery?
- ◆ How do you ask for help from others when you need it?
- ◆ How does your family have fun together?
- ◆ Have you ever had a vacation? Where do you go for vacation?
- ◆ Tell me about your other children.
- ◆ If I asked your neighbors to describe your family what would they say?
- ◆ What are some things that you wish your family did together?
- ◆ Have you ever done something and then later worried about the consequences that could have followed?
  
- ◆ You have been parenting for # years now, so can you tell me what you are most proud of? What brings a smile to your face?
- ◆ What would your children say they like best about your parenting style.
- ◆ How are rules about behavior decided upon in the family?
- ◆ How do you know when you need a break?
- ◆ What do you do when your child does not behave or breaks a family rule?
- ◆ How did you discipline your children when they were younger?
- ◆ When you talk with your child about school, what does he/she tell you?

- ◆ What were your experiences in school? How has this influenced your role in your child's education? (Or will influence your role in foster children's education when placed in your home?)
- ◆ What do you like best about your job? How flexible is your work when it comes to fostering children? If unemployed, why?
- ◆ Are there things about your job that you wish you could change?
- ◆ If you could do what you really wanted to be doing for a career, what would that be?
- ◆ Describe child's current health. What do you do to keep your child so healthy?
- ◆ Do you have insurance, a doctor or clinic you trust?
- ◆ Are you taking any medications? What health issues are these medications helping you to deal with?
- ◆ Tell me about any health problems.
- ◆ Does your child have any medical limitations or special medical needs or treatment?
- ◆ If you could change one thing about your physical health, what would it be?
- ◆ What would help you to manage your health more effectively?
- ◆ Tell me about any serious accidents or illnesses you have had during childhood? Your children?
- ◆ Did the child ever display early childhood behavioral problems or unusual habits?
- ◆ Have you ever had a vacation? Where did you go? What did you do?
- ◆ What makes your family unique?
- ◆ Do you identify with one or more cultural groups?
- ◆ How do people help each other out in this family? What is the role of other family members in helping your family?
- ◆ What goals do you have for your children/family?
- ◆ How would others say you've been helpful to them?
- ◆ For a special celebration, where do you go? Who celebrates with you?
- ◆ Who do you go to when you need help with something?
- ◆ In the past, what has your (sister, neighbor, mother, grandparent, in-law) done that you found helpful?
- ◆ How does the family discuss issues that come up?
- ◆ Is there an adult outside your family that you have a connection with or who could be a support to your family?
- ◆ Describe relationships between the family members.
- ◆ What is something that you missed out on that you would like to see your children doing?
- ◆ What role does your (mother, sister, extended family) have in your family?
- ◆ How would you like your relationship with family members to be different?

- ◆ What would you wish that your extended family would do for you that they are not doing now?
- ◆ What types of things do you disagree about in your family?
- ◆ What would your child/mother/father/ grandfather say needs to change?
- ◆ Has your child ever lived somewhere other than with you? Tell me about those experiences.
- ◆ Where have you lived the past few years?  
Tell me about your past marriages. (mother and father)
- ◆ Tell me about a change in your life that was difficult. How did you deal with that change?
- ◆ Have any your immediate family members received services from DCS or other agencies?
- ◆ Any past legal problems? Who helped you with them?
- ◆ On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being totally dependent on someone and 10 being self-sufficient, where would you rate yourself?
- ◆ What about your home or neighborhood is good for your family?
- ◆ Do you feel safe in your neighborhood?
- ◆ Tell me how you make your budget last to the end of the month.
- ◆ How long has the family been at the current residence?
- ◆ If you could change something about your home or neighborhood, what would it be?
- ◆ How many times has the family moved in the last five years?
- ◆ Are community fosters accessible to you?
- ◆ Is the area considered high or low crime?
- ◆ How many people reside in the home?
- ◆ I hear you speaking another language with your children. Who helped you learn English? Who helps you with reading or writing?
- ◆ How do you think of your family culturally? What is important to you and your family?
- ◆ What would you want me to know about your spiritual beliefs?
- ◆ Where do you go in your community for assistance?
- ◆ Who in your neighborhood can you go to for help?
- ◆ What makes you feel connected to your neighborhood?
- ◆ Tell me about your transportation needs, ... who helps you get to the grocery store (or church, doctor visits)?
- ◆ What would help you be able to practice your beliefs or values more?
- ◆ Could you handle or tolerate a child's/adolescent's values, cultural expressions/traditions, beliefs, religious or sexual preferences that differ from yours? How would you handle that? Give examples. Is there anything you could not handle or tolerate? Why?

# LIST OF FORMS, POLICIES, AND OTHER DOCUMENTS

## **Forms:**

[CS-0427 Child's Medical Record](#)

[CS-0431 Monthly Family Income and Expenditures](#)

[CS-0553 Discipline Policy](#)

[CS-0559 Authorization for Release of Information and HIPAA Protected Health Information TO and FROM the Department of Children's Services and Notification of Release](#)

[CS-0670 Foster Parent Oath to Abide](#)

[CS-0676](#)

[CS-0678 Foster Parent/Other Adult Medical Report](#)

[CS-0687 Background Check History and IV-E Eligibility Checklist](#)

[CS-0688 Foster Home Application for Parenting](#)

[CS-0699 HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices-Client Acknowledgement](#)

[CS-0782 Family Eco-Map](#)

[CS-0871 Foster Family Disaster Plan](#)

[CS-0921 Waiver of Criminal Convictions, Pre- and In-Service Training Modifications, Non Safety Issue and CPS Indications](#)

[CS-0961 Foster Family Home Study](#)

[CS-0962 Foster Parent Applicant Questionnaire](#)

[CS-0963 Foster Family Reference Letter and Questionnaire](#)

[CS-1217, Acknowledgement of Understanding Regarding Placement Acceptance](#)

**DCS Policies:**

**[16.3 Desired Characteristics of Foster Parents](#)**

**[16.4 Foster Home Selection and Approval](#)**

**[16.16 Denial, Closure, Suspended Admissions or On-Hold of Foster Homes](#)**

**[16.23 Foster Home Records](#)**

**Other Documents:**

**[Foster Parent's Bill of Rights](#)**

**[Profile of Parenting Study \(POPS\) Tool](#)**