



20 Questions to Ask Before Placement

Understand that the case manager will not have the answers to ALL of these questions at the time of placement. Highlight the 4 or 5 questions most important for your family before committing to a placement.

- Name, date of birth and ethnicity?
- Why is this child in human service's custody? Did the case involve domestic violence, neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, or substance abuse?
- What is the previous placement experience of the child? If the child was moved previously, why? Have relatives been explored?
- Does this child have siblings? Why are they not being placed with the siblings? If being placed separately, is ongoing contact recommended?
- What is the child's understanding of why he/she has been separated from their family?
- Has the child been evaluated and if so what is their diagnosis?
- Is the child in therapy? (Occupational, Physical, Speech, or Mental Health)
- What are the child's unique behavior and emotional problems and unusual habits?
- Does this child harm younger children or pets?
- How is the child's health? Allergies, immunizations, dental care, medication? Does the department have any birth history?
- Where is this case in the legal process? What is the expected length of placement?
- Will the parents be visiting? How often? How much? Where?
- What is your expectation of me regarding transportation for the child?
- If the child is school-aged, do they have an Individualized Educational Plan?
- Does the child have sufficient clothing? Will there be a clothing allowance?
- Will there be a pre-placement visit?
- May I talk with the current foster parents before making a decision? (Get the foster parents input about the child, how he is doing developmentally and what they've found to be successful in parenting the child).
- Religion: important or not?
- What will the maintenance rate be?
- What makes our family an ideal match for this child? (It is very important to understand how the department made their decision).