

Requirements for Psychosocial Assessments

Section 06.05 of the Resource Family Approval Program Written Directives (Version 8) delineates the Requirements for Psychosocial Assessments and includes the following:

- (a) The County shall conduct interviews as follows:
 - (1) A minimum of two face-to-face interviews with an applicant.
 - (A) If there is more than one applicant, then one individual interview of each applicant and one joint interview of all applicants shall occur.
 - (B) If an applicant refuses to participate in an interview, a County shall deny the application.
 - (C) One of the required interviews shall occur at the applicant's residence and shall include observation of the family environment, and if applicable, any parent-child interaction.
 - (2) (A) A minimum of one separate face-to-face interview of all other adults, children, nonminor dependents, and adoptive, biological, and guardianship children, residing in the home of an applicant to ascertain:
 - (i) Parenting skills of the applicant.
 - (ii) Strengths and weaknesses of the applicant.
 - (B) Interviews with other adults residing in the home shall include a discussion of the individual's background check results.
 - (C) If the RFA program staff is unable to meet with the other adults' face to face, then the interview may be conducted via web-based audio-video communications.
 - (D) If an adult residing in the home is unable to participate in an interview due to a compelling circumstance, a County shall determine if the interview is necessary to assess the applicant's ability to be approved as a Resource Family.
- (3) Additional interviews of an applicant or other individuals, as deemed necessary by the County.

- (b) At a minimum, the following information shall be gathered during the family evaluation of an applicant:
- (1) Motivation to become a Resource Family, including the relationship to a specific child or nonminor dependent considered for placement with the applicant.

- (2) Childhood upbringing and experiences.
- (3) Adult experiences and personal characteristics.
- (4) A risk assessment, which shall include:
 - (A) Past and current alcohol and other substance use and abuse history.
 - (B) Physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, neglect, and family domestic violence history.
 - (C) Past and current physical and mental health.
- (5) Current relationships.
 - (A) Co-parenting roles.
 - (B) If the applicant's spouse, domestic partner or significant other did not apply for Resource Family Approval, then the reasons for the individual application shall be discussed.
- (6) Parenting experiences, practices, and discipline methods.
 - (A) Discussion of how the applicant will promote a normal, healthy, balanced, and supported childhood experience and treat a child or nonminor dependent as part of the family, to the extent possible.
 - (B) Ability to parent a child or nonminor dependent from different backgrounds or experiences, including race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, or a child who is gender non-conforming.
 - (C) In the case of an Indian child, willingness to collaborate with the child's Tribe to maintain the child's connection to the Tribe.
 - (D) In the case of an Indian child, willingness to provide opportunities to the Indian child to attend cultural events that are in line with the prevailing social and cultural standards of the child's Tribe(s).
- (7) Discussion of the background check results.
- (8) Discussion of any services needed by the applicant to meet their Resource Family responsibilities.
- (9) Employment.
- (10) Financial situation.
 - (A) Ability to ensure the stability and financial security of the family.
 - (i) In the case of a relative, nonrelative

extended family member, or extended family member in the case of an Indian child, the requirement to demonstrate financial stability may be waived on a case-by-case basis.

(ii) There are no minimum income requirements for Resource Family Approval.

(B) Understanding of legal and financial responsibilities when caring for a child or nonminor dependent.

(11) Knowledge or ability to demonstrate an understanding of the following:

- (A) The safety, permanence, protection and well-being of children and nonminor dependents who have been victims of child abuse and neglect.
- (B) The needs and development of children and nonminor dependents.
- (C) Effective parenting skills or knowledge about parenting.
- (D) A Resource Family's role and capacity to work cooperatively with the County, birth parents, extended family, Tribe, and other service providers in implementing the child's or nonminor dependent's case plan.
- (E) The rights of children and nonminor dependents in care and a Resource Family's responsibility to safeguard those rights.

(12) An ability and willingness to do the following:

- (A) Meet the needs of children and nonminor dependents.
- (B) Make use of support resources offered by a County or by a support structure in place, or both.
- (C) Prepare a child for adulthood or prepare a nonminor dependent for the transition to independent living.
- (D) Participate in the Quality Parenting Initiative Partnership Plan, if applicable.
- (E) Honor the natural connections of a child or nonminor dependent.
- (F) In the case of an Indian child, the ability to help maintain the child's connection with the Tribe, such as by visitation and participation in cultural events and ceremonies.

- (G) Support permanency plans for a child or nonminor dependent, including reunification, and help prepare a child or nonminor dependent for permanence or provide permanency.
- (c) In the case of an Indian child, the County shall invite the tribal representative to participate during the interviews outlined in Section 6-05(a) and 6-05(b), respectively.
 - (1) The County shall collaborate with the tribal representative to schedule mutually agreeable dates and times for any in-person assessments of the home or family, or if the tribal representative is unable to be present face-to-face, arranging a telephonic or video conference with the tribal representative.
 - (2) The County shall document all contacts and attempted contacts with the Tribe, including the dates, method of contact, and the name of the representative that was contacted.
 - (A) If the tribal representative is unable to participate, the County shall document the invitation, and the reason the representative was unable to participate, if known.
 - (3) The county shall inform the tribal representative, verbally or in writing, of the outcomes of any interview or meeting the tribal representative was unable to participate.
- (d) When evaluating information that shows an applicant has a history of conduct that may pose a risk or threat to the health and safety, protection, or well-being of a child, nonminor dependent, or other individual, a County shall consider the factors specified in Section 6-03B(i) and (j), if applicable, and any other relevant information.
- (e) A County may review information contained in the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) or Child Welfare Services-California Automated Response and Engagement System (CWS-CARES) databases regarding an applicant to develop topics to discuss with an applicant during a family evaluation.