



## Questions to Ask During a Referral Call

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*Don't forget to ask the questions below, so you can make sure you're familiarizing yourself with these children as much as possible! What the case manager who calls doesn't know, they'll try to find out.*

### Bio Family:

- When, where, and with who will visits be?
- Are there any family members outside of immediate parents and siblings that I'll be responsible for maintaining contact with through visits or phone call (grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc.)?
- Ask about their history - Why did the county wait to remove and why were they removed from their home? Have they been in care before/how many placements have they had? Where are the parents?
- If the child has siblings – where are the siblings going and/or why weren't the siblings removed?
- What is the permanency goal?

### Medical Questions:

- Are there any medical needs and/or medications?
- What is their diagnosis? How does their diagnosis impact day to day behaviors?
- If they have an unusual medical diagnosis – what does that mean for care/behavior? Ask the CM to explain the medical issue thoroughly.
- Are they in therapy? How many days a week, where, and will they be switching therapists?
- Are there any behavioral issues we need to look out for (running away, self-harm tendencies, tantrums, physical aggression, sexualized behavior, etc.)?
- Is there any safety plan in place?
- When was their last physical, TB, and dental exam?
- Any recent history of bedwetting?
- Any allergies (food or otherwise)?
- Have they been checked for lice?
- If an undocumented immigrant – do they have insurance? How will medical bills be paid?

### Integration into household:

- How does the child get along with other kids? Can they share a room?
- How does the child get along with pets?
- Does the child have a cell phone? Who pays for the cell phone? Can the foster parent have access to the cell phone to monitor it?
- If coming from another home – How/what did the previous foster parents do that worked? What didn't work? (in terms of discipline, calming behaviors, bonding activities, etc.)
- What is the child's favorite food/meals? Any foods they will not eat?
- What are the child's favorite colors?
- Is the child sexually active? Sexual orientation?
- What are the kids coming with (clothes, diapers, toys, hygiene products, etc.)?
- Is the child religious?
- What are some of their hobbies? Can I enroll them in activities relating to these?
- If older - Can they be left unsupervised/alone in home? For how long?
- If the kids are younger, what are their sleeping patterns? Do they have difficulty sleeping?



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Team:

- What county are they coming from?
- How does communication work among all the people on the child's team? (Who do I need to worry about contacting in case of emergency? Who will I speak to directly, and who will I speak to during meetings, etc.)

School:

- When will daycare/school be set up?
- Will they be changing schools?
- Are they on track for school (grade level, development)?
- Do they have an IEP or other accommodations in school?