

Questions for Case Workers

Or What Every Foster Parent Needs to Know

When a child is placed in your care, you have the right to have, and the professional obligation to find out, the information you will need to care for this child to the best of your ability. You must have specific information in order to be a parent to this child as well as to fulfill your role as team member, primary treatment provider, and mentor/role model for birth parents and advocate for the child. Some of the questions you should ask are:

- Why is the child being placed, is this the first time, if not how many previous?
- What is the child's legal status?
- Has the child received placement physical? When? Results?
- Is the child on medication?
- Are there any medical allergies?
- Does the child have Medicaid Card, immunization records, and medical consent form?
- When was the last Dental check-up, eye exam?
- Does the child have food allergies or need special dietary considerations?
- What is the child's educational background and record?
What grade? At, Above or Below grade level.
Have transcripts or a copy of the ISP been requested?
Are there any specific school related issues we should be aware of?
- Does the child have any behavior problems, unusual habit we should be aware of?
For example: sexual acting out, toileting issues, sleep, behavioral issues, what, why and when?
- Does the child have any siblings? Where do they reside? Is there a sibling visitation plan? Why are the siblings not placed together?
- Who is allowed to call and visit? How often? Starting when? Any restrictions? Is child allowed to call, write, contact, and visit others? If restrictions, what are they?
- Who is the child's Law Guardian?
- When is the next Court Hearing?
- When is the next Service Plan Review scheduled?
- What are the agency's expectations of your family?
- Permission for Church and Sunday school attendance.
- Are there sufficient clothes? If not, when can a clothing voucher be issued?