

# Tips for Caregivers

*Monthly Social Workers Visits with Children in Out-of-Home Placement*

Social Workers will ask you questions about how a child is doing in your home.

Some of those questions may include:

## General questions about the home and family structure such as:

Who currently lives in the home?

How does the caregiver respond to discipline problems?

Are there any significant events in the caregiver's residence that might impact the care of this child? (death, marital separation, medical issues).

What is the best time or method to contact you?

## Questions about a child's adjustment, well-being, and progress toward permanency goals:

Do family members feel safe with this child?

How is the child adjusting to your home?

What makes the child happy or upset?

What are the child's interests?

What is the child's daily routine?

How is the child progressing in school?

What do you see as the child's strengths?

What is the child doing to meet his or her cultural identity, social heritage and maintaining connections?

When did the child have his or her last medical, mental health and dental appointments?

Does the child visit with parents and siblings? If yes, how does the child respond? If no, why not?

Does the child have problems with the law or other institutions?

Does the child engage in activities that pose a risk of self harm?

Does the child need any services or supports?

This is a chance for you to ask any questions you might have for the child's social worker; some commonly asked questions include:

What is the permanency plan for the child?

Are there any upcoming meetings, appointments or court hearings that I should be aware of?

Are there any plans to move the child before the next visit?

How can I access these services?

- Medical
- Dental
- Mental Health
- Educational
- Social
- Recreational
- Cultural
- Other

Are there any behaviors, conditions, concerns about this child I should know about that haven't been provided?

What caregiver support groups, are available in my area?

Where can I access training?

Who should I call if I have issues related to payment?

What is the next court hearing date and time?

---

When is the best time and method to contact you?

If I can't get in touch with you, who else may I call?

# Contact / Appointment Information

Child: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Worker: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Worker Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Worker E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

After Hours Help Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## Tracking Sibling Contacts:

1. Copy, print, or maintain an electronic copy of the sibling contact template below.
2. Track sibling visits and contacts (phone calls, Skype time, Facebook connection, texting, etc.) Note the date, type of contact and siblings who participated.
3. Send information to the child's assigned worker once a month, or provide the information during your monthly visit with the worker.

### SIBLING CONTACT TEMPLATE

- > Date of Visit or Contact:
- > Which Siblings Participated:
- > Type of Visit or Contact:

#### EXAMPLES:

1. Date of Visit or Contact: **2/19/2013**  
Which Siblings Participated: **Alice talked to siblings Bob and Lily**  
Type of Visit or Contact: **telephone call**
2. Date of Visit or Contact: **2/28/2013**  
Which Siblings Participated: **Alice visited with sibling Jose**  
Type of Visit or Contact: **visit**

**IMPORTANT FOR ALL CAREGIVERS TO REMEMBER:** You cannot limit a child's visits or contacts between his or her siblings as either an incentive or consequence for the child's behavior.