

Questions to Expect When Making a CPS Referral:

When making a CPS referral the following information will be requested. This information is critical to ensuring we are able to respond appropriately to reports of suspected child maltreatment.

Specific Concern *(What are your specific concerns about the child(ren)? Has something happened to the child? If so, what happened? When and where did it occur and who was involved? Was an object used and if so, what type of object? How serious is the harm to the child?) Provide a detailed description of your specific concern.*

Circumstances surrounding your concern: *(What was going on with the family before, during and after the specific circumstance/event/alleged child maltreatment you are concerned about? Where were the children at the time and where are they now? What did the child say happened? What is the caregiver's explanation? How do you know about this circumstance/event/alleged maltreatment? Is your concern an ongoing concern with the children? Has this specific concern, or any other concerns about this child, come to your attention previously? If so, please provide an explanation of prior concerns you have. Who else knows about this? Were the police called? If so what is the officer's name?*

Child Functioning *(Describe each child's day to day functioning in relation to other children their age. What is the child's overall appearance, health and wellbeing? Does the child(ren) have any behavioral, mental, emotional, intellectual or physical disabilities? If so what and how does it affect their functioning? Is child(ren) receiving services from any agency? If so who and what for? Are they on any medications? Do they get meds regularly? If school age what grade? On grade level? Describe attendance/discipline issues/general performance. How do the child(ren) interact with their peers? Has child(ren) expressed concerns about going home? If so what concerns and why?*

Parenting Discipline *How do the parents manage the child's behaviors? What do the parents do when the child gets in trouble? How do they view the purpose of discipline? Do they have house rules for the children and if so, what are they? What kind of things does the child get in trouble for? Is the caregiver ever out of control when disciplining the child? If so, explain when and the circumstances.*

General Parenting *(What is the overall parenting style of the parents—structured, strict, laid-back....? How do the parents/child(ren) interact? Do parents seem to understand the child(ren's) needs? Are they able to meet these needs? Why or why not? Does the caregiver have realistic expectations of child(ren) given the child's age/functioning? Explain. Describe how caregiver accesses and uses available resources to provide basic needs for the children. Who usually cares for the child(ren)? Are the parents living in the same home? If not, is the non-residential parent involved with the child? Describe how caretakers react to bad behavior. Describe how they show love and nurturing.*

Adult Functioning *(What is the overall functioning of each parent on a personal level-- rather than as a parent?) How does the caretaker care for themselves? Are they employed? If so what shift? Stable employment? Who cares for child when they are at work? Do caregivers have a steady source of income? Stable housing? Are there any concerns relating to mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence? If yes, what frequency? How do the parents respond when you approach them with concerns?*

Additional Comments Section-Anything else you feel we need to know about this family.