

How a Thorough Intake Helps All Child Welfare Service Areas

FAMILY ASSESSMENTS AND INVESTIGATIVE ASSESSMENTS

- By making the first assessment of safety (when determining the response time), intake helps communicate the urgency of the child's situation, which helps assessment workers prioritize.
- Identifying and demographic information collected at intake help the assessment worker locate the family, so timely initiation can occur. This information can also help us locate and engage absent parents.
- Because it makes timely initiation possible, intake helps us respond quickly to maltreatment concerns, so we can ensure the safety and well-being of children.
- By highlighting potential safety concerns in the home and surrounding areas, intake can help assessment workers ensure their own safety as well.
- Intake's review of agency records can reveal patterns of potential risk.

CPS IN-HOME SERVICES

- The information intake gathers on family members, collaterals, and professionals involved can help in-home staff identify who can support the family in initiating and maintaining positive change that will create a safer environment for the child.
- These individuals can also serve as placement resources if the home becomes unsafe for the child.
- Intake's review of agency records can reveal patterns about families' past level of engagement with child welfare services.
- By highlighting potential safety concerns in the home and surrounding areas, intake can help in-home workers ensure their own safety when working with families.

PERMANENCY PLANNING SERVICES

- The information intake gathers on family members, collateral contacts, and professionals involved can help permanency planning staff identify who can support the family in achieving reunification or permanency for the child.
- These individuals could potentially be respite providers for the child or a placement option, if a placement disruption occurs.
- Intake's review of agency records can reveal patterns about families' past level of engagement with child welfare services.
- By highlighting potential safety concerns in the home and surrounding areas, intake can help permanency planning workers ensure their own safety when working with families.

This figure accompanies "Intake: A Critical Part of Assessing and Ensuring the Safety of NC's Children and Youth" (Children's Services Practice Notes, v. 25, n. 1, November 2019 • www.practicenotes.org)