

Family Functioning Domain Criteria

Assessment Considerations – The following statements provide examples of family functioning to consider when reviewing if this is an area of strength or need when assessing safety and developing a safety plan family assessment or developing a family plan to provide for the safety of the child, the well-being of the child and family, and the permanency of the child.

1. Child Well-Being

Children's Mental Health	<input type="checkbox"/> Strength	<input type="checkbox"/> Need
<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child has emotional stability and positive self concept • Child is able to handle stress effectively • Child has mental health issues but participates in treatment, takes medication, and is making excellent progress • Child has some mental health issues that are being addressed satisfactorily 	<p>Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child is diagnosed with mental health issues and is not making satisfactory developmental progress • Child has prescribed medication but is not taking his/her meds regularly • Child has emotional difficulties and demonstrates an inability to handle stress 	
Children's Behavior	<input type="checkbox"/> Strength	<input type="checkbox"/> Need
<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child is well behaved • Child does not require discipline routinely • Child responds appropriately to family rules and accepts responsibilities for household chores • Child is usually cooperative but at times has some difficulties in following family rules 	<p>Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child refuses to follow family rules • Child exhibits delinquent and/or highly oppositional behavior • Child is involved with court and/or law enforcement systems 	
School Performance	<input type="checkbox"/> Strength	<input type="checkbox"/> Need
<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child attends school regularly • Child has an average, good or excellent academic record • Child usually behaves appropriately at school 	<p>Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child has poor attendance or is truant in school • Child has a poor academic record • Child has many behavior problems in school 	
Relationship with Parents/Caregivers	<input type="checkbox"/> Strength	<input type="checkbox"/> Need
<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child is accepting of discipline and supervision when needed • Child has clear and open communication with parents/caregivers • Child has some problems in accepting discipline and supervision but doesn't require intervention 	<p>Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child resists discipline and supervision • Child has abusive or hostile relationship with parents/caregivers 	

Relationship with Siblings	<input type="checkbox"/> Strength	<input type="checkbox"/> Need
<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child gets along well with siblings • Siblings support each other • Child has some disagreements with siblings but doesn't warrant special attention 	<p>Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child experiences intense rivalry with siblings • Child fights with siblings resulting in injury or emotional damage 	
Relationship with Peers	<input type="checkbox"/> Strength	<input type="checkbox"/> Need
<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child has positive relationship with peers • Peers provide positive influence • Child participates in school and/or other religious, social or recreational activities 	<p>Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peers have a negative influence • Child is unable to form friendships with peers • Child has not actively participated in school and/or other religious, social or recreational activities • Child avoids peers 	
Motivation/Cooperation to Maintain the Family	<input type="checkbox"/> Strength	<input type="checkbox"/> Need
<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child is motivated to change behaviors and cooperate with family • Child exhibits appropriate behavior and cooperation with family members • Child wants to stay with family/caregivers • Child is accepting interventions/services to support the well being of the family 	<p>Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child does not have a positive relationship with family/caregivers • Child has desire to leave family • Child is resistant to intervention/services to support the well being of the family 	

2. Parental Capabilities

Supervision of Child	<input type="checkbox"/> Strength	<input type="checkbox"/> Need
<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/caregiver provides age appropriate supervision, such as setting limits for activities based on child's age • Parent/caregiver considers child's needs in selecting substitute caregivers and the child's comfort with the substitute caregiver • Parent/caregiver has basic knowledge of the child's location and activities, and some consideration given to substitute caregivers 	<p>Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/caregiver gives little or no consideration to selecting or providing appropriate caregivers for child • Parent/caregiver usually does not set limits or provide supervision of the child's activities 	

Disciplinary Practices	<input type="checkbox"/> Strength <input type="checkbox"/> Need
<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/caregiver provides age-appropriate, non-punitive, consistent discipline • Parents/caregivers agree on parenting style and support one another • Parents/caregivers present good role models for child • Occasionally parent/caregiver's discipline is inappropriate to age, but inconsistencies do not create major problems between child and caregiver 	<p>Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/caregiver does not provide appropriate structure or discipline • Past or current emotional or physical abuse has been used as a form of discipline • Parent/caregiver's use of discipline is excessive, punitive, inappropriate to age or inconsistent • Parent/caregiver does not presents a consistently positive role model for child
Developmental/Enrichment Opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/> Strength <input type="checkbox"/> Need
<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides the children enrichment opportunities such as social, recreational, musical or other enrichment activities • Parent/caregiver is actively involved in the children's enrichment activities • Parent/caregiver does provide opportunities for enrichment opportunities for child but is not actively involved in the activities 	<p>Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/caregiver does not encourage or discourage child's involvement in enrichment activities • Parent/caregiver "pushes" child not only to be involved but to excel in activities and is overly demanding regarding the child's progress
Parent/Caregiver's Physical Health	<input type="checkbox"/> Strength <input type="checkbox"/> Need
<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/caregiver's medical and/or physical health does not affect the ability to provide for the well-being and parent the child • Parent/caregiver's medical and/or physical health provides some limits but does not pose major obstacles in parenting abilities 	<p>Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/caregiver's medical and/or physical health is not under control and greatly impairs ability to provide for the well being of the child
Parent/Caregiver's Mental Health	<input type="checkbox"/> Strength <input type="checkbox"/> Need
<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/caregiver's mental health positively affects ability to parent and provide for the well being of the child • Parent/caregiver's has successful resolution of past emotional or mental health problems using success from overcoming issues to bolster parenting • Parent/caregiver's current or past mental health occasionally inhibits parent/caregiver's but does not significantly hinder ability to parent or provide for the well being of the child 	<p>Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/caregiver's current and/or past mental health problems negatively affect ability to provide for the well being of the child • Parent/caregiver projects personal problems on child and/or other household members

Parent/Caregiver's Use of Drugs/Alcohol	<input type="checkbox"/> Strength <input type="checkbox"/> Need
<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/caregiver does not use alcohol or uses alcohol appropriately • Parent/caregiver does not use illegal drugs and actively discourages child's use of drugs and alcohol • Parent/caregiver's current or past use of drugs/alcohol does not significantly hinder the parent/caregiver's ability to supervise or provide for the well being of the child 	<p>Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/caregiver's current and/or past problems with drugs/alcohol negatively affect his/her ability to provide for the well being of the child • Parent/caregiver is frequently unable to care for or supervise child due to use of drugs/alcohol

3. Family Safety

Absence/Presence of Physical Abuse of Children	<input type="checkbox"/> Strength <input type="checkbox"/> Need
<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family has had no complaints or substantiation of physical abuse of children • Parent/caregivers does not condone family violence • Reports of abuse have been received on the family and substantiated but family has fulfilled their role in the Safety Plan; successfully completed counseling; the children are safe; and no subsequent reports have been received 	<p>Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complaints reporting physical abuse have occurred and been substantiated with the family and family has not fulfilled their role in the Safety Plan • Parent/caregivers resists intervention • Family has history of domestic violence

Absence/Presence of Sexual Abuse of Children	<input type="checkbox"/> Strength <input type="checkbox"/> Need
<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child has never experienced sexual abuse • Child understands the concepts of "good" and "bad" touch • Child has been sexually abused but has or is making progress in treatment and perpetrator is not in the home 	<p>Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child has experienced sexual abuse • Child sexually abused other children

Absence/Presence of Emotional Abuse of Children	<input type="checkbox"/> Strength <input type="checkbox"/> Need
<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child has never been emotionally abused • Child exhibits secure feelings and possesses a positive sense of self-worth • Child has experienced emotional abuse in the past and has or is making progress in treatment 	<p>Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child continues to experience emotional abuse • Child is not responding positively to treatment

Absence/Presence of Neglect of Children	<input type="checkbox"/> Strength	<input type="checkbox"/> Need
<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family has never experienced incidence of neglect Parent/caregivers is successful in meeting child's physical, social and/or emotional needs Family has experienced incidence of neglect but is positively responding to services and support and demonstrating progress in provider for the well being of children 	<p>Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent/caregivers is not able to provide for the well being of the child Parent/caregivers does not meet child's physical, social, and/or emotional needs Parent/caregivers denies neglect Parent/caregivers is resistant to services and support to address identified neglect issues 	

Absence/Presence of Domestic Violence Between Parents/Caregivers	<input type="checkbox"/> Strength	<input type="checkbox"/> Need
<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family has never experienced domestic violence Family encourages members to solve problems nonviolently Family disputes occur but are solved without violence Family violence has occurred but family has responded to services and supports in preventing recurrence of family violence episodes 	<p>Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family violence continues Family violence negatively affects the parent/caregivers ability to provide for the well being of the children Family denies the presence of family violence Family is resistant to services and support to address family violence issues 	

4. Family Interactions

Bonding with Children	<input type="checkbox"/> Strength	<input type="checkbox"/> Need
<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent/caregivers provides positive opportunities for establishing strong attachment with the children Parent/caregiver displays high levels of positive stimulation, affection, and nurturing Parent/caregiver encourages appropriate independence for the children Parent/caregiver does not often give affection openly to child however, child's needs appear to be met 	<p>Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent/caregiver does not display a sense of attachment to the children Parent/caregiver is resentful, rejecting, or detached from the children Parent/caregiver does not have the ability to respond to the child's basic needs and providing for the well being of the children 	

Expectations of the Children	<input type="checkbox"/> Strength	<input type="checkbox"/> Need
<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent/caregiver has more than an average understanding of child development stages including cognitive, physical, social and emotional Parent/caregiver has realistic age appropriate expectations of children Parent/caregiver has the ability to present expectations for child's behavior clearly Parent/caregiver has some knowledge of child development stages and demonstrates appropriate expectations for the children 	<p>Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent/caregiver has limited knowledge of child development stages Parent/caregiver has unrealistic expectations of child Parent/caregiver does not have the ability to communicate clearly his/her expectations for the child's behavior 	

Mutual Support Within the Family	<input type="checkbox"/> Strength	<input type="checkbox"/> Need
<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family has excellent emotional and/or “physical” support from family members and extended family members Family has capacity to identify and access resources and supports Family members appear to help each other willingly 	<p>Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family members undermine other family members Family has limited ability to identify and access resources and supports Family does not have the ability to develop positive methods of solving problems There is limited to no extended family support 	

Relationship Between Parents/Caregivers	<input type="checkbox"/> Strength	<input type="checkbox"/> Need
<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relationship between parents/caregivers is stable, consistent, affectionate, and loving Parents/caregivers are able to communicate clearly and encourage each other Parents/caregivers maintain a separateness from the children Parents/caregivers exhibit minor relationship conflicts but appear to be able to resolve these conflicts 	<p>Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relationship between parents/caregivers is unsupportive and unstable Parents/caregivers have not identified common goals Parents/caregivers demonstrate a consistent atmosphere of conflict between each other Divorce, separation, abandonment are prominent issues and in constant play 	

5. Home Environment

Housing Stability	<input type="checkbox"/> Strength	<input type="checkbox"/> Need
<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family has maintained the same adequate residence for three years with no threat of moving Family moved to obtain better housing in the last three years with no threat of moving Family has support for housing in the last three years with no threat of moving Family has adequate housing but has moved in the last three years due to employment Family has experienced minor housing problems but current housing is adequate with no threat of moving 	<p>Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family is being threatened with eviction Family does not have housing Family is dependent on others for housing and is not satisfied with the living situation Family is living in a homeless shelter that is time limited 	

Safety in Community	<input type="checkbox"/> Strength	<input type="checkbox"/> Need
<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family resides in a low crime neighborhood Caregiver can allow children to play outside with minimal supervision Neighbors look out for each other Minor disturbances occur in the neighborhood but does not prevent family members and children from spending time outdoors 	<p>Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family resides in a high crime neighborhood The neighborhood is not safe for outside activity Neighbors fearful of “getting involved” 	

Habitability of Housing	<input type="checkbox"/> Strength <input type="checkbox"/> Need
<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home is clean and neat with no health or safety hazards • Home meets or exceeds the families needs for space and privacy • Outside areas of the home are maintained and free of safety hazards • Home has some minor problems but does not present safety hazards or require immediate attention 	<p>Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home presents unsanitary conditions which may include pest infestations • Home presents significant problems which may include nonfunctioning conditions or safety hazards • Home contains safety hazards within the reach of a child such as, guns, knives, street drugs, medications or poisons
Income/Employment	<input type="checkbox"/> Strength <input type="checkbox"/> Need
<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family has had stable employment and income over the past 12 months that meets or exceeds the family needs • Family has sufficient income from a legal source to meet the families needs • Family usually has sufficient income to meet basic needs but may have minor financial issues 	<p>Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family has major financial issues that impact the ability to provide for basic needs • Family has a pattern of unemployment or underemployment
Financial Management	<input type="checkbox"/> Strength <input type="checkbox"/> Need
<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family uses financial resources in a way that has clear spending plans and priorities • Family debts are small, manageable and payments are current • Family has some budget challenges but they do not prevent family from meeting basic needs for food, clothing or shelter 	<p>Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family has a history, within the past year, of being unable to provide for the family's basic needs for food, clothing or shelter • Family has income but does not manage resources to meet the family's basic needs of food, clothing or shelter
Food/Nutrition	<input type="checkbox"/> Strength <input type="checkbox"/> Need
<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/caregiver provides for the nutritional needs (including special needs) of child • Parent/caregiver provides regular, nutritional meals for child on a regular basis • Parent/caregiver meets basic nutritional needs although meals may not always be balanced 	<p>Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/caregiver lack awareness for the nutritional needs (including special needs) of child • Parent/caregiver has inadequate supply of food or inappropriate food
Personal Hygiene	<input type="checkbox"/> Strength <input type="checkbox"/> Need
<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family members look clean, well groomed and have an awareness of personal hygiene and grooming • Family members have sufficient clothing appropriate to the season 	<p>Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family members usually wear inappropriate clothing for the season and/or appear unkempt • Parent/caregiver has a lack of awareness of personal hygiene and grooming

Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Strength <input type="checkbox"/> Need
<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family has a car or access to public transportation on a regular basis • Family has reliable transportation that allows the family to meet obligations such as employment, doctors appointments or school • Family usually has access to reliable transportation with only occasional transportation related problems 	<p>Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family does not have access to a car or public transportation on a regular basis • Family's lack of transportation inhibits work, increases social isolation or limits access to services or school
Learning Environment	<input type="checkbox"/> Strength <input type="checkbox"/> Need
<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/caregiver provides a learning environment that supports age appropriate activities that encourage child development • Parent/caregiver is involved and supportive in the educational development of the child • Parent/caregiver does not actively seek out constant involvement with child's school, but makes time available as requested 	<p>Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/caregiver does not value education and are frustrated with child's learning needs • Parent/caregiver fails to provide the child with opportunities for learning at home or school • Parent/caregiver are non-responsive to school's request for participation and support