

Questions to Ask Prior to Placement of a Child in Your Home

At the time a child is placed with you, you have the right to have--and the professional obligation to find out--information which will enable you to do the best possible job. You need specific information in order to fulfill your role as:

- ❖ Substitute parent
- ❖ Formal member of the treatment team
- ❖ Primary treatment provider for the child
- ❖ Role model and teacher for the biological parent(s)
- ❖ Facilitator of visitations
- ❖ Advocate for the child

Questions to ask:

- Why is the child being placed?
- Who is the social worker? The guardian *ad litem*? And what are the phone numbers for each?
- What is the plan for the child? Expected length of placement?
- Was the child in a previous foster home? If so, why does the child need a new placement? What is the placement history?
- What is the child's legal status? When is the next court date?
- Does the child have any siblings? How old are they and where do they reside? Why are the siblings not placed together?
- Where are the parents? What is the plan for visitation with parents, others?
- Does the child have a MedQUEST card? If not, when can I expect to receive one? What procedure do I use in the meantime for accessing services of the doctor, dentist, and pharmacy?
- Who is the child's pediatrician or doctor? Dentist? Can I change the providers to the ones I use?
- When was the child's last physical? If the child is entering foster care for the first time, who is responsible for scheduling the comprehensive health assessment?
- Does the child have any medical problems? Is the child taking any medication?
- Does the child have any behavior problems, unusual habits, etc.?
- Is the child sexually active?
- Are there sufficient clothes? If not, what procedure do I follow for purchasing clothes?
- What school has the child been attending? What grade is the child in? Will the child continue at his current school? If not, when will he be enrolled in his new school?
- Is the child receiving Special Education services? If so, who is the surrogate parent? How do I obtain a copy of the IEP?
- What is the religious affiliation of the child? Is it important? Do I need to make special arrangements to have child attend services, etc?
- Does the child qualify for difficulty-of-care payments?
- (If the child's an infant) What kind of formula and bottle does the child use?