

**Comprehensive Strengths and Risk Assessment Rating Tool**

Case Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CPSS case number: \_\_\_\_\_

Initial Assessment Date (with in 60 days of Intake report): \_\_\_\_\_  Re-Assessment Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Case Closure Date: \_\_\_\_\_  Other Date: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Part 1 - Child Characteristics (Assess each child in the home):</b>	Child Name	Child Name	Child Name	Child Name	<b>Highest Score</b>
1. Vulnerability/Self Protective Skills (1)					
2. Special Needs/Behavior Problems (1,5)					
<b>SUBTOTAL for # 1 and #2</b>					

<b>Part 2 – Baseline level of risk:</b>	Family	<b>Highest Score</b>
3. Prior History: Severity/Chronicity (2)		
4. Current Actual Harm (2)		
Physical Abuse (Injury)		
Exploitation (Non-Sexual)		
Neglect		
Sexual Abuse		
Psychological Abuse		
Dangerous Acts		
<b>SUBTOTAL for #3 and #4</b>		

<b>Part 3 – Parent/Caregiver (P/C) Characteristics:</b>	P/C Name	P/C Name	P/C Name	<b>Highest Score</b>
5. History of CA/N as Child (4)				
6. Mental/Emotional, Intellectual, or Physical Impairments (4,5,13)				
7. History of Violence or Sexual Assault of Parent/Caregivers (towards peers, and/or children) (6)				
8. Substance abuse (7)				
9. Recognition of Problem/Motivation to Change (8,11,12)				
10. Protection of Child by Non-Abusive Parent/Caregiver (9)				
11. Level of Cooperation (11)				
12. Parenting Skills/Expectations of Child(13)				
13. Empathy/Nurturance/Bonding (13)				
<b>SUBTOTAL for #5 through #13</b>				

<b>Part 4 – Familial, social and economic factors:</b>	<b>Highest Score</b>
14. Domestic Violence (6)	
15. Economic Resources for Family (10)	
16. Social Support for Family (10)	
17. Stress on Family (13)	
<b>SUBTOTAL for #14 through #17</b>	

<b>Part 5 – Overall Level of Risk:</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Subtotal for Part 1 (#1 and #2)	
Subtotal for Part 2 (#3 and #4)	
Subtotal for Part 3 (#5 through #13)	
Subtotal for Part 4 (#14 through #17)	
<b>Total Overall Level of Risk</b>	

(0) No  Low/Moderately Low (1-17)  Moderate (18-34)  Moderately High/High (35-51)

**Worker:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Supervisor:** \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Scoring:**

When rating each risk factor, the highest score will be used to calculate the total risk level. In each item, descriptions may be identified in a range from 0 – 3 with 0 representing Family Strengths/Protective Factors and 3 representing Moderately High/High Risk on the Rating Reference. For example, a parent/caregiver may demonstrate behaviors that rate both a 1 (Low/Moderately Low Risk) and 2 (Moderate Risk) on the Rating Reference. The score used for calculations will be the highest level identified. In this example, the score for the individual factor will be 2 (Moderate Risk).

### **Part 1 - Child Characteristics (Assess each child in the home):**

- Consider the vulnerability of the child.
- The level of susceptibility to child abuse and neglect is related to the child's vulnerability, ability to protect him/herself, special needs (i.e., developmental delays), behavioral problems and past victimization.
- Practice and research indicates younger children are more likely to be severely harmed as a result of child maltreatment.
- Question # 1- Vulnerability/Self Protective Skills and Question # 2-Special Needs/Behavior Problems:
- The **Highest Score** means you will take the highest risk level of the child(ren) scored for each question and this risk level would go under **Highest Score**. For example, in question #1 which asks you to access the Vulnerability/Self Protective Behaviors of each child in the home, if there are 3 children and their scores for question #1 are 2, 1, and 3, the **Highest Score** for question #1 will be 3. For question #2 which asks you to rate the Special Needs/Behavior Problems of each child in the home, if the scores for the 3 children in the home are 1, 2, and 1, the total score for question #2 is 2.
- The **Subtotal** for questions #1 and #2 is the sum of the **Highest Score** column. In the previous examples, the subtotal would be 5.

### **Part 2 – Baseline level of risk:**

- Consider the **prior history** of child abuse and neglect and **current incident of abuse and/or neglect** information regarding prior reported or unreported abuse or neglect history, including history from Hawaii and other states, law enforcement reports, medical records, etc. for the family.
- Include victimization of any child and describe injuries or accidents related to the child abuse and neglect in the areas below. A chronic, recurrent episode of abuse and neglect identifies a family pattern of child maltreatment (abuse and neglect) rather than an isolated incident. Include the severity and effects on the child when considering the **current** child abuse and/or neglect.
- Question # 3-Prior History: Severity Chronicity and Question # 4-Current Actual Harm:
- The **Highest Score** for question # 3 is the risk level score given the Family for question #3.
- The **Highest Score** for question #4 is the highest risk level score identified in the Current CA/N types. For example, the score may be 1 for Physical Abuse, 0 for Exploitation, 2 for Neglect, 0 for Sexual Abuse, 1 for Psychological Abuse, and 1 for Dangerous Acts. In this example, the Total score for # 4 would be 2.
- The **Subtotal** for questions #3 and #4 is the sum of the **Highest Score** column. If the score for # 3 is 1 and the score for #4 is 2, the subtotal would be 3.

### **Part 3 – Parent/Caregiver Characteristics:**

- Rate each parent. Parent/caregiver is defined for the purpose of this tool as: the child/ren's parent or adult that is the subject of the report and/or others who have a primary caregiving role for the child/ren and/or ongoing access to the child. This may be the mother, father, significant other of the mother or father, grandparent or others that care for the child/ren.
- Consider the past and present parenting functioning of the child's caregiver in the areas below. These risk factors are predictive of future risk of harm.
- Gather reliable information about each risk factor and, whenever possible, corroborate the information collected.
- Questions # 5 through #13
- The **Highest Score** for each question in # 5 through #13 is the highest risk level score for each parent/caregiver. For example, in question #5 which asks the History of CA/N of the parent/caregiver(s) as a child, if there are 2 parent/caregivers and one scored a 1 and the other scored a 3, the **Highest Score** for question #5 would be 3.
- For question #10 rate the non-abusive parent/caregiver if there is one present in the family. Do not rate abusive parent/caregiver, unless they are the only caregiver in the family or all caregivers are abusive (the score would be 3 if there is only one caregiver and they are abusive or if there are more than one parent/caregiver and all are abusive).
- The **Subtotal** for #5 through #13 is the **Highest Score** for each question in the total column.

### **Part 4 – Familial, social and economic factors:**

- Consider factors such as family stress, social support, economic resources and domestic violence. The presence or absence of these factors has been shown to impact the level of risk of child abuse or neglect in families.
- Questions #14 through #17
- The **Highest Score** for each question in #14 through #17 is the highest score identified for the Family in the Rating Reference. For example, question #16 requires a rating of the social support for the family, the family's situation, based on the Rating Reference, may be reflected in a level 2 (Moderate Risk) and level 3 (Moderately High/High Risk, the score for question #16 would be a 3. The **Highest Score** for each question is the highest risk score for the family.
- The **Subtotal** for questions #14 through #17 is the sum of each number in the **Highest Score** column.
- The **Total Overall Level of Risk** is the total of the **Subtotals** for Parts 1 through 4.

### **Part 5 – Overall Level of Risk:**

#### Subtotals for Parts 1 through 4

- Add all of the Subtotals for Parts 1 through 4 to get the Overall Level of Risk Score and select the box for the overall score.

## Comprehensive Strengths and Risk Assessment

### Purpose:

The Comprehensive Strengths and Risk Assessment Rating Tool assists workers to apply the information gathered during the family-centered interviews to:

- make a determination of overall risk to children in the family,
- make appropriate decisions about the level and type of intervention, and services provision required by a family, and
- document that these decisions are based on a research-based process, using factual and observable indicators of risk and strengths/protective factors.

### Assessment Process:

CWS workers gather comprehensive information to assess child safety and risk of future harm using techniques that engage the family and nurture trust, self-assessment, motivation, and positive change. Family-centered assessment engages children and caregivers in the assessment process through open-ended, non-confrontational questions and active listening techniques. This assessment approach is recognized as a best practice guide by child welfare professionals because of the following benefits to children, families, workers, and other team members:

- By developing trust and reducing defensiveness, family-centered assessments produce more comprehensive and accurate information about the family's history and functioning.
- As a result of the more thorough and accurate information gathered, CWS workers are able to more accurately assess child safety and risk of future harm.
- More accurate assessments improve the team's decision making around the level and type of intervention needed.
- Family-centered assessments encourage children and caregivers to identify their own strengths and needs, leading to intervention plans that are individualized and relevant to the child and family.
- By gathering information on strengths as well as needs, family members gain hopefulness and motivation, increasing the likelihood that goals will be achieved and achieved more quickly.

Information also comes from other sources including police and medical reports, information gathered during interviews with collateral sources, etc

Engaging families in family-centered assessment and case planning improves child safety, promotes early achievement of permanency, and increases child and family well-being.

### Tools:

The Comprehensive Family-Centered Strengths and Risk Assessment package includes three inter-related documents to lead CWS workers through a conscientious and planful assessment process that will result in sound decision making at key points of a case, including the development of an effective case plan. These documents include:

- The Interview and Documentation Guide: This is designed for use in the field and provides recommended family-centered focal points and space to take notes;
- The **Comprehensive Strengths and Risk Assessment Rating Reference (required)**: This lists specific indicators of strength/protective factors and each risk level to be considered when determining the current level of risk (You may highlight or circle the factors that are evident in the family to assist you in determining the level of risk. It is also recommended that you make notes on these pages if you decide not to use the Interview Guide); and
- The **Comprehensive Strengths and Risk Assessment Rating Tool (required)**: This guides the worker to consider each of the research-based factors associated with the risk of maltreatment (abuse and neglect), assists the worker to determine the overall level of risk, and provides a location to document the results of the risk assessment.

Completion of the Comprehensive Strengths and Risk Assessment Rating Tool using the Rating Reference is required; however, the use of Interview and Documentation Guide is optional.

### Timeframe Requirements

The **initial** Comprehensive Strengths and Risk Assessment Rating Tool is completed:

- **Within 60 days of case opening, or prior to closing the case at investigation**, whichever occurs first. This assessment may be completed by the investigative or ongoing case management worker, as appropriate to the case circumstances.

The Comprehensive Strengths and Risk Assessment Rating Tool is completed to document **re-assessments** at the following key decision points:

- **Whenever evidence or case circumstances suggest an increase or decrease in risk.**
- **Prior to supervisory approval when considering whether to close an ongoing case or transfer to VCM or FSS**, to determine if risk factors have been sufficiently mitigated that the likelihood of future maltreatment in the absence of CPS services and monitoring is low.