Protective Capacity of Kinship Caregiver

Cognitive Protective Capacity: In this area of the assessment consider the intellectual, knowledge, understanding and perceptions that contribute to protective vigilance. Here are some examples of cognitive characteristics:

- Reality oriented—sees the world for what it is and does not live in fantasy.
- Accurate perception of a child –not an angel, not a devil…
- Recognition of a child's needs—age appropriate
- Ability to accurately process and interpret various stimuli
- Understanding protective role (may in conflict with other roles)
- Intellectually able
- Understands and recognizes threats

Possible questions to pose to assess Cognitive Protective Capacity:

- Can you describe what you know about <NAME OF CHILD>?
- How do you envision protecting <NAME OF CHILD> while at the same time ensuring that they maintain contact with their parents and brothers/sisters?
- What do you think that <NAME OF CHILD> needs most from you during the first 30 days in your home?
- What are your expectations from <NAME OF CHILD> during his/her first 30 days in your home?

Family Responses:

Emotional Protective Capacity refers to specific feelings, attitudes and *identification with the child* and motivation that result in parenting and protective vigilance. Here are some examples of emotional characteristics:

- Emotional bond with the child
- Positive attachment with the child
- Love, sensitivity and empathy for the child
- Resiliency
- Stability (emotionally and life choices)
- Effectively meets own emotional needs –not looking for the child to meet needs

Possible questions to pose to assess Emotional Protective Capacity:

- What do you think contributes to the stability of your life?
- What is one fond memory that you have of <NAME OF CHILD>?
- What do you know about the struggles that <NAME OF THE CHILD> has been through—how might you help him/her cope?
- What will you do if <NAME OF THE CHILD> is angry and not appreciative of you and how you are trying to help?

Family Responses:

Behavioral Protective Capacity refers to specific action, activity and performance that is consistent with and results in parenting and protective vigilance. Here are some examples of behavioral characteristics:

- Physical capacity and energy
- Ability to set aside own needs
- Adaptive
- Assertive and responsive
- Takes action
- Impulse control
- History of being protective

Possible questions to pose to assess Behavioral Protective Capacity:

- Can you describe a typical day in your life?
  - How might you imagine your life changing as a result of <NAME OF CHILD> coming into your home?
  - How do you think that you will adapt to these changes? How well do you think other members of your family will adapt to the changes?
- Can you describe other times when you have had to protect <NAME OF CHILD> or any other children from harm or potential harm?
- Would someone who knows you well describe you as assertive or timid or somewhere in between?

Family Responses:

Assessment Conclusions

- ☐ **Caregiver has demonstrated the ability to protect the child in the past while under similar circumstances and family conditions.**
- ☐ **Caregiver has made appropriate arrangements which have been confirmed to assure that the child is not left alone with the maltreating person.**
- ☐ **Caregiver believes the child's report of maltreatment and is supportive of the child.**
- ☐ **Caregiver is physically able to intervene to protect the child.**
- ☐ **Caregiver does not have significant individual needs which might affect the safety of the child, such as severe depression, lack of impulse control, serious medical needs, etc.**
- ☐ **Caregiver has adequate resources necessary to meet the child's basic needs.**
- ☐ **Caregiver is capable of understanding the specific threat to the child and the need to protect.**
- ☐ **Caregiver has adequate knowledge and skill to fulfill caregiving responsibilities and tasks. This may involve considering the caregiver's ability to meet any exceptional needs that the child might have.**
- ☐ **Caregiver is working effectively with the caseworker's efforts to provide services and assess the specific needs of the family.**
- ☐ **The caregiver demonstrates appropriate concern and intolerance for what occurred.**
- ☐ **Caregiver is emotionally able to carry out a plan and/or to intervene to protect the child (caregiver not incapacitated by fear of maltreating person).**
- ☐ **Caregiver displays concern for the child and the child's experience and is intent on emotionally protecting the child.**
- ☐ **Caregiver and child have strong bond and caregiver is clear that the number one priority is the well-being of the child.**
- ☐ **The caregiver consistently expresses belief that the maltreating person is in need of help and that he or she supports the maltreating person getting help. This is caregiver's point of view without being prompted by CPS.**
- ☐ **While the caregiver may be having a difficult time believing the other person would maltreat the child, the caregiver describes the child as believable and trustworthy.**

☐ **Caregiver does not place responsibility on the child for the problems of the family.**

Comments:

Decision:

☐ **Can and Will Protect**	☐ **Cannot/Will Not Protect**	☐ **Capacity to Protect Uncertain**