

Child Well Being Tool

The Child Well Being tool is used to assess the presenting strengths and needs of an individual child. This assessment tool is used to systematically identify critical child needs and help plan effective service interventions. The Child Well Being Tool serves the following purposes:

- Provides an important case planning reference for workers and supervisors
- Ensures that all social workers consistently consider each child's strengths and needs in an objective format when assessing need for services.

A Child Well Being tool must be completed within 30 days of finalizing the Family Assessment or Investigation workgroup, or within 30 days of workgroup opening in case management when a child meets any of the following criteria:

- Each child in a CP Case Management workgroup, whether Family Assessment or Investigation, regardless of if they are in placement
- Each child in out-of-home placement in a non-CP Case Management workgroup who is also:
 - Receiving child welfare services
 - Receiving children's mental health services
 - Receiving services for developmental disabilities
 - Delinquent.

For those children in out-of-home placement in non-child protection cases, counties may choose to complete an alternative assessment instrument. The acceptable alternative assessment instruments are:

- Child and Adolescent Functional Scale (CAFAS)
- Developmental Disabilities Screening Document (DHS 3067)
- Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI).

If there are workgroups open in child protection and children's mental health, the county determines which assessment tool will be completed. Only one tool needs to be completed and documented.

The Child Well Being tool should be reassessed every six months while a Child Welfare workgroup is open for case management services and/or when circumstances warrant reassessment. This reassessment should reflect any progress made on child well being factors.



DHS Policy: The social worker/case manager in collaboration with the family, and when appropriate with the child, determines which of the listed needs and strengths will be addressed in the case plan. The identification of a child's needs does not require that all needs must be addressed in a case plan nor does it obligate the county to provide services to address all the identified needs.