

When the Phone Rings

An Introduction

This Keeping You Informed bulletin will go over questions frequently asked by experienced foster parents when CP&P calls for a child to enter their home. This list can be helpful to you whether you're a new or experienced resource parent.

The Basics

- What is the child's name, age, sex and race?
- What is the child's religion?
- Does the child require any religious instruction?
 - If so, where? When? Who is expected to provide transportation?
- What is the child's sexual orientation?
- Is the child transgender?
- If so, what pronoun do I use?

Health Concerns

- What known allergies, if any, does the child have?
- Is the child on any medication?
 - If yes, describe diagnosis and medication
- Are there any special dietary concerns?
- Are there any medical and /or immunization records?
 - If not, who can the pediatrician contact to get such records?
- Has the child been issued a Medicaid card?
- Does the child have HIV history?

Educational Needs

- What do I need to do about the child starting school?
- Have the records been transferred?
- Does the child have an Individualized Education Program

(IEP) in place?

- Are there any special arrangements necessary for the child's education?
- How will transportation to the school be handled and by whom?

Developmental Concerns

- Is the child on schedule developmentally?
 - If not, explain.
- If the child is older, does he/she have a history of violence, drug or alcohol use?
- Is the child sexually active?

Emotional/Mental Considerations

- Does the child receive any therapy or counseling?
 - If so, what kind and how often are the sessions?
 - Where do they take place and who is expected to provide transportation?
- Has the child been sexually and/or physically abused?
 - If so, does the child exhibit behaviors (e.g., acting out) as a result of the abuse?
- Does the child exhibit any habitual anti-social behaviors (e.g., lying, stealing, harming others)?
- Has the child been exposed to domestic violence?

Family History

- Has any initial family visitation schedule been established? If yes:
 - When and where are the visits?
 - Who is expected to provide transportation?
- Does the child have any siblings? If yes:

- Are they also being placed out-of-home?
- Will there be visits with the siblings? If yes:
 - How often do they occur and where do they take place?
 - Who will provide transportation?

Involving CP&P

- Was the child removed through Informed Consent or by court order?
- What Local Office (LO) is placing the child? Is this the only LO I'll deal with?
- Who is the Casework Supervisor?
- How long has the child been in care?
- How many homes have they had?
- Is the child coming from another resource home? If yes:
 - Why is the child being removed from that home, and may I contact the former resource parents?
- What is the board rate for this child?
 - If coming from another resource home, is it the same rate?
 - If no, why not?
- What is the case plan for the child?
- What is the anticipated length of stay for the child?