

CARE AND PROTECTION

ADVOCATES CHECK LIST

SAFETY PLANS - DCJ SAYS THAT A CHILD NEEDS A PLAN TO HELP THEM STAY SAFE

This checklist is designed to help advocates ensure that safety plans and assessments are accessible, fair, and practical for parents with cognitive disability

Name:

Date:

1. Safety plans

A safety plan outlines immediate dangers and the tasks to address them, ensuring a child is safe at home. It is not a long-term plan.

Has the parent been offered the chance to speak to a lawyer?

If not, help them find one or ask DCJ for a referral

NOTES:

Have you helped the parent tell the DCJ caseworker:

- What they think will keep the child safe?
- What help they need from family, friends, or services?

NOTES:

Has the parent asked the DCJ caseworker for copies of what has been written down?

NOTES:



Is the parent physically and mentally able to complete the tasks in the plan?
Ensure it doesn't ask for things that the person's disability makes too difficult

NOTES:

Can the parent explain the plan in their own words?

Can they tell you:

1. What have they agreed to do?
2. How often will the caseworker check in?
3. What happens next?

If the parent can't explain the plan to you, support them to understand what it means.

NOTES:

Have you asked the parent how they would like to be supported in completing the tasks in the safety plan and how they would like to be reminded of important things, e.g., text, email, or phone call?

NOTES:



2. Family Assessment

A Family Assessment examines the parent's history and strengths to determine whether the child may be at risk of future harm. This assessment is completed even if the child was found to be safe at the safety assessment.

☐ Does the parent know when the Family Assessment is?

☐ Does the parent know they will be asked about:

- Their alcohol and other drug history?
- Their current and past mental health?
- Their history of domestic or family violence?

NOTES:

☐ Have you helped the parent identify their strengths and how they have overcome past problems? (Easy Read - My parenting story)

NOTES:

Advocate toolkit

- Easy Read - My parenting story (Easy Read template)
- Child Protection Guide for Families and Easy Read versions – this guide was written by DCJ and it provides a good overview of the care and protection process. It is worthwhile reading through this guide and explaining it to the parent in a way they can understand.



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