

NCFAS

North Carolina Family Assessment Scale

Scale & Definitions (v. 2.0)



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National Family Preservation Network

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The National Family Preservation Network (NFPN) is the sole distributor of the NCFAS training package. All inquiries should be directed to NFPN.

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A. Environment

	Not Applic.	Clear Strength	Mild Strength	Baseline/ Adequate	Mild Problem	Moderate Problem	Serious Problem	Unknown
1. Overall Environment								
Intake	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
Closure	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
2. Housing Stability								
Intake	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
Closure	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
3. Safety in the Community								
Intake	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
Closure	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
4. Habitability of Housing								
Intake	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
Closure	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
5. Income/Employment								
Intake	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
Closure	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
6. Financial Management								
Intake	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
Closure	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
7. Food and Nutrition								
Intake	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
Closure	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
8. Personal Hygiene								
Intake	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
Closure	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
9. Transportation								
Intake	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
Closure	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
10. Learning Environment								
Intake	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
Closure	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK

B. Parental Capabilities

Note: This section refers to biological parent(s), if present, or current caregiver(s).

	Not Applic.	Clear Strength	Mild Strength	Baseline/ Adequate	Mild Problem	Moderate Problem	Serious Problem	Unknown
1. Overall Parental Capabilities								
Intake	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
Closure	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
2. Supervision of Child(ren)								
Intake	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
Closure	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
3. Disciplinary Practices								
Intake	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
Closure	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
4. Provision of Developmental/ Enrichment Opportunities								
Intake	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
Closure	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
5. Parent(s)'s/Caregiver(s)'s Mental Health								
Intake	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
Closure	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
6. Parent(s)'s/Caregiver(s)'s Physical Health								
Intake	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
Closure	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
7. Parent(s)'s/Caregiver(s)'s Use of Drugs/Alcohol								
Intake	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
Closure	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK

C. Family Interactions

Note: This section refers to family members living in the same or different households.

	Not Applic.	Clear Strength	Mild Strength	Baseline/ Adequate	Mild Problem	Moderate Problem	Serious Problem	Unknown
1. Overall Family Interactions								
Intake	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
Closure	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
2. Bonding with Child(ren)								
Intake	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
Closure	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
3. Expectations of the Child(ren)								
Intake	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
Closure	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
4. Mutual Support Within the Family								
Intake	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
Closure	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
5. Relationship Between Parents/Caregivers								
Intake	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
Closure	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK

D. Family Safety

Note: This section refers to family members living in the same or different households

	Not Applic.	Clear Strength	Mild Strength	Baseline/ Adequate	Mild Problem	Moderate Problem	Serious Problem	Unknown
1. Overall Family Safety								
Intake	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
Closure	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
2. Absence/Presence of Physical Abuse of Child(ren)								
Intake	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
Closure	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
3. Absence/Presence of Sexual Abuse of Child(ren)								
Intake	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
Closure	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
4. Absence/Presence of Emotional Abuse of Child(ren)								
Intake	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
Closure	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
5. Absence/Presence of Neglect of Child(ren)								
Intake	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
Closure	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
6. Absence/Presence of Domestic Violence Between Parents/Caregivers								
Intake	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
Closure	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK

E. Child Well-Being

Note: This section pertains to the **imminent risk child(ren)**.

	Not Applic.	Clear Strength	Mild Strength	Baseline/ Adequate	Mild Problem	Moderate Problem	Serious Problem	Unknown
1. Overall Child Well-Being								
Intake	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
Closure	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
2. Child(ren)'s Mental Health								
Intake	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
Closure	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
3. Child(ren)'s Behavior								
Intake	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
Closure	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
4. School Performance								
Intake	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
Closure	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
5. Relationship with Parent(s)/Caregiver(s)								
Intake	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
Closure	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
6. Relationship with Sibling(s)								
Intake	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
Closure	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
7. Relationship with Peers								
Intake	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
Closure	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
8. Cooperation/Motivation to Maintain the Family								
Intake	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK
Closure	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	UK

Definitions for the NCFAS

A. Environment

1. Overall Environment	
+2 Clear Strength	Refers to family receiving very high ratings in the following areas: housing stability, safety in the community, housing habitability, income/employment, financial management, food and nutrition, personal hygiene, transportation, and learning environment.
0 Baseline/Adequate	Refers to family experiencing minimal problems in the following areas: housing stability, safety in the community, housing habitability, income/employment, financial management, food and nutrition, personal hygiene, transportation, and learning environment. However, problems do not interfere in family's ability to function, and problems do not need to be addressed.
-3 Serious Problem	Refers to family receiving very low ratings in the following areas: housing stability, safety in the community, housing habitability, income/employment, financial management, food and nutrition, personal hygiene, transportation, and learning environment.
2. Housing Stability	
+2 Clear Strength	Refers to family occupying the same, adequate residence for more than three years. If less than three years, move is prompted by a job change or move to better housing, etc. Rent/mortgage are paid on time. There are no problems meeting financial obligations of rent or mortgage.
0 Baseline/Adequate	Refers to family experiencing, or previously experiencing, minor problems in remaining in the same residence, but family is relatively capable of meeting financial obligations, present housing is not threatened, and family members are not inhibited in pursuing other obligations due to these problems.
-3 Serious Problem	Refers to family being threatened with eviction. Unable to meet rent or mortgage obligations on time, or at all. Or, family does not have housing, is living with different relatives or friends, or living in a homeless shelter. Family is not satisfied with living situation.
3. Safety in the Community	
+2 Clear Strength	Refers to a safe and secure neighborhood for the children. Parents can allow children to play outside without fear. Neighbors look out for each other (i.e., neighborhood watch).
0 Baseline/Adequate	Refers to minor disturbances in the neighborhood, but disturbances do not prevent family members and children from spending time outside in the community.
-3 Serious Problem	Refers to many disturbances such as fights and/or outbursts in the neighborhood. The neighborhood is not safe for children to play outdoors or walk to the bus or to school. Evidence of violence, boarded up or barred windows, gun fire, the use of alcohol or drugs, and/or drug trafficking in the neighborhood. Neighbors fearful of getting involved.

4. Habitability of Housing	
+2 Clear Strength	Refers to family and neighbors experiencing home as warm. Home is very clean and neat. Plenty of space and privacy for children. Plenty of furnishings in good repair. Safety precautions are considered and taken, such as the use of smoke alarms and dead bolts on outside doors. Poisonous items are kept locked and out of children’s reach. Plumbing is in good condition.
0 Baseline/Adequate	Refers to minimal problems in the home, such as slight overcrowding, or some clutter. However, most safety precautions are taken (e.g., poisons are out of sight but not locked). Minor house repairs (e.g., crumbling plaster) may be evident, but do not require immediate attention.
-3 Serious Problem	Refers to unsanitary situations, including roaches, litter, clutter, and/or unpleasant odors present in the home. Food particles and/or rotting food on the counters and tables. Urine-soaked or stained furniture, dirty diapers, dirty dishes, overflowing garbage, and/or animal or human feces on the floor. Hesitance to sit down or enter the home. Nonfunctioning plumbing and/or no electricity. Many hazards within the reach of children, such as guns, knives, street drugs, or open medication and poisons.
5. Income/Employment	
+2 Clear Strength	Refers to family having stable employment and income over the past 12 months. More than enough income to pay for food, housing, and/or clothing. Money is not an issue. Family has money to meet responsibilities and spend on leisure activities.
0 Baseline/Adequate	Refers to family having relatively stable employment in the past 12 months. Income is sufficient in meeting basic needs, such as food, rent, and clothing. There are some money pressures, such as credit card debt, but they do not significantly inhibit family activities or present purchase of necessities.
-3 Serious Problem	Refers to family losing employment for negative reasons two or more times in the past 12 months and inability to pay for food, housing, and/or clothing. Family receives public assistance and/or primary caretakers are unemployed. Money is a major issue. Child support is not paid. Public assistance has been canceled. Family does not have money to meet basic needs.
6. Financial Management	
+2 Clear Strength	Refers to family using money in a way that provides benefits financially, and family has clear spending plans or priorities. Debts are small and manageable. There is a planned use of money, and no back bills. Family is good at bargain hunting.
0 Baseline/Adequate	Refers to family having debts, but debts are under control. Some problems with budgeting, but problems do not prevent family from meeting basic needs for food, rent, etc.
-3 Serious Problem	Refers to family being severely in debt. Family has a history within the past year of being evicted from their home due to bills. Great difficulty paying bills, and/or bills are paid late. Chaotic budgeting, and family is constantly in crisis over money. Frequently broke, due to betting or gambling. No budget plan. Luxuries are bought before necessities.

7. Food and Nutrition	
+2 Clear Strength	Refers to caretakers' awareness of nutritional needs of children, including any special needs. Meets those needs. Prepares balanced, nutritious meals. Ample food available. Children eat on a regular schedule. Food/nutrition actively monitored by caretakers.
0 Baseline/Adequate	Family meets basic nutritional needs. Children have access to sufficient and varied food, though individual meals may not always be balanced.
-3 Serious Problem	Refers to caretakers' lack of awareness of nutritional needs of children, including any special needs. Does not attempt to meet nutritional needs. Does not consider food preparation important. Inadequate supply of food and/or inappropriate food. Lots of junk food consumed. Children often go hungry.
8. Personal Hygiene	
+2 Clear Strength	Refers to children looking clean and well groomed. Children have plenty of clothing, appropriate to the season. Adults look clean and well groomed. Adults have plenty of clothing appropriate to the season. Awareness of personal hygiene and grooming. Take pride in themselves.
0 Baseline/Adequate	Refers to children occasionally wearing inappropriate clothing or appearing unkempt. However, appearance or inappropriate clothing is not causing problems for the family or children.
-3 Serious Problem	Refers to constant appearance of children as unkempt or dirty. Appearance of adults as unkempt. Noticeable poor personal hygiene, obviously poor dental hygiene, and/or body odor. Lack of awareness of children or adults of personal hygiene and grooming. Dress is inappropriate to the season.
9. Transportation	
+2 Clear Strength	Refers to family having a car, or regular access to a car or public transportation. Reliable transportation allows family to meet obligations such as doctors' visits, school, or regular work attendance.
0 Baseline/Adequate	Refers to family having fairly regular access to reliable transportation. Occasionally, transportation difficulties will cause a problem for family (e.g., arriving late to work because of difficulties).
-3 Serious Problem	Refers to family not having transportation available, which in turn inhibits work, increases social isolation, and/or limits access to services, and/or prevents regular school attendance.
10. Learning Environment	
+2 Clear Strength	Refers to caretakers' enthusiasm in teaching children. Family has routine for play and study. Time is planned for reading, attending outings, structured activities. Caretakers' actively involved with school and assist children with developmental tasks. Age appropriate games and toys are provided, and evident in the home (e.g. school work is displayed). Parents are supportive of school personnel.
0 Baseline/Adequate	Refers to caretakers' occasionally planning time for learning activities. Caretakers do not actively seek out constant involvement with child's school, but make time available as requested.
-3 Serious Problem	Refers to caretakers' lack of attention or hindrance to developmental tasks of children, and low involvement with children's school. Caretakers do not value education, and are frustrated and angered with children's learning needs. No opportunities for learning at home. Games and toys absent and/or are not age appropriate. Parents are not supportive of school personnel, or are disdainful of public schools/teachers.

B. Parental Capabilities

Note: This section refers to biological parent(s), if present, or current caregiver(s).

1. Overall Parental Capabilities	
+2 Clear Strength	Refers to family receiving very high ratings in the following areas: supervision of children, disciplinary practices, provision of development/enrichment opportunities, parent(s)/caregiver(s)'s mental health, parent(s)/caregiver(s)'s physical health, and parent(s)/caregiver(s)'s use of drugs/alcohol.
0 Baseline/Adequate	Refers to family experiencing some problems in the following areas: supervision of children, disciplinary practices, provision of development/enrichment opportunities, parent(s)/caregiver(s)'s mental health, parent(s)/caregiver(s)'s physical health, and parent(s)/caregiver(s)'s use of drugs/alcohol. However, problems do not pose major difficulties for family members.
-3 Serious Problem	Refers to family receiving very low ratings in the following areas: supervision of children, disciplinary practices, provision of development/enrichment opportunities, parent(s)/caregiver(s)'s mental health, parent(s)/caregiver(s)'s physical health, and parent(s)/caregiver(s)'s use of drugs/alcohol.
2. Supervision of Child(ren)	
+2 Clear Strength	Refers to caretaker's provision of age appropriate supervision, such as setting limits for activities based on the child's age. Caretaker is careful and attentive to child's needs in selecting substitute caregivers (babysitter, neighbor). Makes sure children feel comfortable and safe with substitute caregiver, Keeps track of children and knows children's friends.
0 Baseline/Adequate	Refers to caretaker providing satisfactory supervision of children. Some limits are set on activities based on the child's age. Some consideration given to selecting substitute caregivers, and some concern with children's comfort with the substitute caregiver. Has a basic knowledge of location of children, and has a basic knowledge of children's friends.
-3 Serious Problem	Refers to caretaker's lack of age appropriate supervision, or any supervision. Limits on activities of children are not set or set inconsistently. Little or no consideration is given to selecting substitute caregivers (strangers, known abusers, persons under the influence of drugs/alcohol). No thought about children's comfort and feeling of security with substitute caregiver. Children's friends are not known, and location of children is not regularly known.
3. Disciplinary Practices	
+2 Clear Strength	Refers to caretakers' ability to provide age-appropriate, non-punitive, consistent discipline. Uses positive reinforcement, and tries to educate children through appropriate discipline. Presents good role model. Caretakers agree on parenting style and support one another.
0 Baseline/Adequate	Refers to caretakers' adequate provision of discipline and guidance of children. Occasionally discipline is inappropriate to age, too harsh or too lenient, but inconsistencies do not create major problems between child and caretakers.
-3 Serious Problem	Refers to caretakers' lack of discipline, or past or current emotional or physical abuse referred to as discipline. Discipline is excessive, punitive, inappropriate to age, inconsistent, and/or absent. Present poor role models. Parents disagree on parenting strategies and present mixed messages to child.

4. Provision of Developmental/Enrichment Opportunities	
+2 Clear Strength	Refers to caregiver(s)'s encouragement of opportunities such as sports, music lessons, and/or visits to museums and parks. Caregivers do not push children to be involved. Caregivers are actively involved providing transportation, coaching teams, and/or participating in advisory boards.
0 Baseline/Adequate	Refers to caregiver(s)'s support of opportunities for children such as sports, music lessons, and/or field trips., but caregivers are not actively involved or are involved sporadically in supporting these activities.
-3 Serious Problem	Refers to caregiver(s)' lack of support or over-involvement in opportunities for children such as sports, music lessons, and/or field trips. Caregivers do not encourage or discourage children's involvement in these activities. Conversely, caregivers push children to not only be involved but excel in activities, and are demanding regarding their children's progress.
5. Parent(s)'s/Caregiver(s)'s Mental Health	
+2 Clear Strength	Refers to caregivers current (e.g., positive self esteem) mental health that positively affects ability to parent and/or successful resolution of past m. health problems (e.g. using success from overcoming issues to bolster parenting).
0 Baseline/Adequate	Refers to caregivers' current or past mental health (e.g., mild depression), that occasionally inhibits caretaker, but does not significantly hinder the caretaker's ability to parent.
-3 Serious Problem	Refers to caregivers' current and/or past mental health problems (e.g., severe depression, bipolar disorder, active psychosis, etc.) that negatively affect ability to parent children. Caretaker projects personal problems on children or other household members
6. Parent(s)'s/Caregiver(s)'s Physical Health	
+2 Clear Strength	Refers to caregivers' current (e.g., caregivers' exercise regimen, etc.) or past medical or health history that positively affects ability to parent children.
0 Baseline/Adequate	Refers to caregivers' current or past medical or health history that provides some limits (e.g., overweight caregiver), but does not pose major obstacles in parenting abilities.
-3 Serious Problem	Refers to caregivers' current or past medical or health history that are not under control and greatly impair ability to parent. (Issues can range from severe asthma, diabetes, blindness, heart problems, high blood pressure, cancer, etc.)
7. Parent(s)'s/Caregiver(s)'s Use of Drugs/Alcohol	
+2 Clear Strength	Refers to caregivers' current or past use of drugs/alcohol. Caregiver does not use drugs/alcohol, or uses alcohol appropriately. Caregiver does not use illegal drugs, and actively discourages childrens' use of drugs/alcohol. Caregivers' moderate or non-use does not impair ability to parent.
0 Baseline/Adequate	Refers to caregivers' current or past use of drugs/alcohol; mostly uses alcohol appropriately. Use of drugs/alcohol does not significantly hinder the caregivers' ability to supervise or parent children.
-3 Serious Problem	Refers to caregivers' current and/or past alcohol/substance abuse problems that negatively affect ability to parent children. Caregivers' are frequently unable to care for or supervise children due to use of drugs/alcohol. Caregiver projects personal problems on children or other household members.

C. Family Interactions

Note: This section refers to family members living in the same or different households.

1. Overall Family Interactions	
+2 Clear Strength	Refers to family receiving very high ratings in the following areas: bonding with child, communication with child, marital relationship, expectations of the child, and mutual support.
0 Baseline/Adequate	Refers to family receiving ratings of adequate in the following areas: bonding with child, communication with child, marital relationship, expectations of the child, and mutual support.
-3 Serious Problem	Refers to family receiving very low ratings in the following areas: bonding with child, communication with child, marital relationship, expectations of the child, and mutual support.
2. Bonding with Child(ren)	
+2 Clear Strength	Refers to caregivers' healthy closeness with their child and their ability to nurture a child. Caretakers encourage appropriate independence for child, and give love and attention freely to child. They respond to child's needs appropriately, and have a sense of attachment to child.
0 Baseline/Adequate	Refers to caregivers' ability to be close to their child. Caregivers do not openly encourage independence for their child, and may not give affection openly to child. However, child's needs appear to be met.
-3 Serious Problem	Refers to caregivers' inability to form a close relationship with their child, and inability to nurture their child. Caretakers are resentful, rejecting, or detached from their child. Also refers to caregivers' non-responsiveness, inappropriate responsiveness, or extreme enmeshment with their child.
3. Expectations of the Child(ren)	
+2 Clear Strength	Refers to caregivers' possessing age appropriate expectations for the child, and clear expectations of the child. Above average understanding of child's development cognitively, physically, socially, and emotionally.
0 Baseline/Adequate	Refers to caregivers' expectations for the child as mostly age-appropriate. Caregivers appear to have an average understanding of child's developmental needs, but this understanding does not warrant intervention.
-3 Serious Problem	Refers to caregivers' having unrealistic and unclear expectations for the child. Do not tolerate mistakes in the child. Child is expected to take on adult responsibilities (i.e., parentified). Or, child is not allowed to engage in age-appropriate behaviors (e.g. sports, dating). Little or inappropriate understanding of normal child development.
4. Mutual Support Within the Family	
+2 Clear Strength	Refers to excellent emotional and/or physical support within family. Physical support is given when needed, such as providing daycare, transportation, or financial help. Family members appear to help each other willingly.
0 Baseline/Adequate	Refers to good support within the family. Some physical support is provided when requested by a family member. Most requests for help from family members are met by other family members.
-3 Serious Problem	Refers to poor or lack of emotional support or physical support among family members. Family does not provide transportation, daycare, or financial assistance when needed. Undermining of each other in the family. Family members do not tolerate success by other family members.

5. Relationship Between Parents/ Caregivers	
Note: This item may not be applicable in all cases. This would be the case if there were only one caretaker involved, and there is no significant other. If this is the case, circle NA on the form.	
+2 Clear Strength	Refers to relationship between caregivers as stable, consistent, affectionate, and loving. Couple is able to communicate clearly and encourage each other. Couple maintains a separateness from children.
0 Baseline/Adequate	Refers to relationship between caregivers. Some conflicts are evident, but do not appear to be leading to divorce, separation, or abandonment. Some minor difficulties with communication but do not significantly impair the relationship.
-3 Serious Problem	Refers to relationship between caregivers as unsupportive and unstable. Major communication difficulties with evidence of discord, violence, or indifference. Divorce, separation, or abandonment are prominent issues. Boundaries are not clearly maintained between partners, or between the couple and children.

D. Family Safety

Note: This section refers to family members living in the same or different households

1. Overall Family Safety	
+2 Clear Strength	Refers to families receiving very high marks in the following areas: absence/presence of physical abuse of children, absence/presence of sexual abuse of children, absence/presence of neglect of children, and absence/presence of domestic violence between parents/caregivers.
0 Baseline/Adequate	Refers to families receiving baseline ratings in the following areas: absence/presence of physical abuse of children, absence/presence of sexual abuse of children, absence/presence of neglect of children, and absence/presence of domestic violence between parents/caregivers.
-3 Serious Problem	Refers to families receiving very negative marks in the following areas: absence/presence of physical abuse of children, absence/presence of sexual abuse of children, absence/presence of neglect of children, and absence/presence of domestic violence between parents/caregivers.
2. Absence/Presence of Physical Abuse of Child(ren)	
+2 Clear Strength	Refers to families in which incidents/complaints/substantiations of physical abuse by caregivers have never occurred, or has occurred and family successfully been involved in counseling. Caregivers do not condone violence.
0 Baseline/Adequate	Refers to families in which physical abuse has not occurred, or in which complaints/incidents/substantiations of abuse by caretakers has occurred, but satisfactory progress is being made through counseling or the provision of other services.
-3 Serious Problem	Refers to incidents/complaints/substantiations of physical abuse by caregivers which have not been acknowledged or addressed, or have been resolved unsatisfactorily. Caretakers may be actively denying substantiated abuse and/or neglect, or actively resisting intervention.

3. Absence/Presence of Sexual Abuse of Child(ren)	
+2 Clear Strength	Refers to child who has never experienced sexual abuse, and who has learned about such concepts as good and bad touch. Or, a child who has experienced sexual abuse and is now being protected. Child is in treatment and has been making excellent progress.
0 Baseline/Adequate	Refers to child who has never experienced sexual abuse, but has not been actively taught concepts such as good or bad touch. Or, a child who has been sexually abused, but is making satisfactory progress in treatment.
-3 Serious Problem	Refers to child having experienced sexual abuse by others, or child sexually abused others. May be inferred or substantiated. Child has been referred for treatment or is in treatment. A judgment is made regarding unsatisfactory progress in treatment. Sexual abuse is ongoing, or risk of sexual abuse is high.
4. Absence/Presence of Emotional Abuse of Child(ren)	
+2 Clear Strength	Refers to child who has never been emotionally abused, and who exhibits secure feelings, and possesses a sense of self-worth. Or, a child who has experienced emotional abuse, and is making excellent progress in treatment.
0 Baseline/Adequate	Refers to child who has never been emotionally abused. Child basically exhibits secure feelings or self-esteem. Or, a child who has been emotionally abused, but is in treatment and is progressing satisfactorily.
-3 Serious Problem	Refers to child having been emotionally abused by others. Child has been referred for treatment or is in treatment. Treatment is judged to be progressing unsatisfactorily. Incidents of emotional abuse have increased, are ongoing, or risk is high.
5. Absence/Presence of Neglect of Child(ren)	
+2 Clear Strength	Refers to families in which incidents/complaints/substantiations of neglect have never occurred, or have occurred and outstanding progress in counseling is made for the family. Caregivers recognize and are successful in meeting children's physical, social, and emotional needs.
0 Baseline/Adequate	Refers to families in incidents/complaints/substantiations of neglect have never occurred, or have occurred, but some progress in counseling is made for the family. Caregivers usually recognize physical, social, and emotional needs of children and meet most of these needs.
-3 Serious Problem	Refers to incidents/complaints/substantiations of child neglect by caregivers which have not been acknowledged or addressed, or have been resolved unsatisfactorily. Caretakers may be actively denying substantiated neglect, or actively resisting intervention.
6. Absence/Presence of Domestic Violence Between Parents/Caregivers	
Note: This item may not be applicable in all cases. This would be true if there were only one caretaker involved, and there is no significant other. If this is the case, circle NA on the form.	
+2 Clear Strength	Refers to families in which violence has never occurred between caregivers, and all family members are encouraged to solve problems nonviolently. Also refers to families in which domestic violence has occurred, but no longer occurs due to family's success in counseling, and family actively discourages violence.
0 Baseline/Adequate	Refers to families in which domestic violence has occurred, but no longer occurs. Family is involved in counseling and making some progress. Also, families in which violence has never occurred. Disputes occur, and family members solve problems without violence.
-3 Serious Problem	Refers to incidents/complaints/arrests for domestic violence. Violence between caregivers negatively affects ability to parent and/or has resulted in physical or emotional harm to children.

E. Child Well-Being

Note: This section pertains to the **imminent risk child(ren)**.

1. Overall Child Well-Being	
+2 Clear Strength	Refers to family receiving very high ratings in the following areas: child's physical health, child's mental health, child's behavior, school performance, relationship with caregivers, relationship with siblings, relationship with peers, and motivation/cooperation; and no ratings in: alcohol/substance, sexual, and emotional abuse areas.
0 Baseline/Adequate	Refers to family receiving adequate ratings in all of the areas: child's physical health, child's mental health, child's behavior, school performance, relationship with caregivers, relationship with siblings, relationship with peers, motivation/cooperation, alcohol/substance, sexual, and emotional abuse.
-3 Serious Problem	Refers to family receiving very low ratings in the following areas: child's physical health, child's mental health, child's behavior, school performance, relationship with caregivers, relationship with siblings, relationship with peers, motivation/cooperation, alcohol/substance abuse, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse.
2. Child(ren)'s Mental Health	
+2 Clear Strength	Refers to child's overall, excellent mental health. Good emotional stability and self-concept. Able to handle stress effectively. Child may have mental health issues, but participates in treatment, taking medication, and is making excellent progress.
0 Baseline/Adequate	Refers to child's having good, overall mental health. Basically good emotional stability. Child may have had episodes of anxiety. Or, child may have some mental health issues that are being addressed satisfactorily in treatment.
-3 Serious Problem	Refers to child's having poor, overall mental health. Emotional difficulties. Inability to handle stress. Diagnosed with mental illness, and/or other emotional disabilities. Child is making unsatisfactory progress in treatment. Treatment is sporadic, and/or medication is not taken regularly.
3. Child(ren)'s Behavior	
+2 Clear Strength	Refers to child being well behaved, and there are no discipline problems. Child viewed as cooperative, following rules, and doing chores.
0 Baseline/Adequate	Refers to some problems in managing child's behavior, and some discipline problems. Child is usually cooperative, has some difficulties in following rules or completing chores, but problems do not merit intervention.
-3 Serious Problem	Refers to problems managing child's behavior at home, and/or in school. Totally uncooperative. Refuses to follow rules, or do chores. Delinquent and/or highly oppositional behaviors. Problems with courts and law enforcement.
4. School Performance	
+2 Clear Strength	Refers to child having excellent attendance at school, and an excellent academic record. Child likes school, and/or behaves appropriately in school.
0 Baseline/Adequate	Refers to child having good attendance and an average academic record. Some behavior problems may be evident in school.
-3 Serious Problem	Refers to child having poor attendance at school, a poor academic record, and/or many behavior problems in school. Child professes to hate school and/or avoids school with illnesses or truancy.

5. Relationship with Parent(s)/Caregiver(s)	
+2 Clear Strength	Refers to child accepting discipline and supervision. Having open and clear communication with caregivers.
0 Baseline/Adequate	Refers to child having some problems in accepting discipline and supervision. Also, some problems in communication with caregivers, but doesn't warrant intervention.
-3 Serious Problem	Refers to discipline and supervision problems with child. Lack of open and clear communication, or no communication, with caregivers. Does not respect boundaries, and has an abusive or hostile relationship with caregivers.
6. Relationship with Sibling(s)	
Note: This item may not be applicable in all cases. This would be true if there are no siblings in the family. If this is the case, circle NA on the form.	
+2 Clear Strength	Refers to getting along well with siblings. Help one another when in need. Infrequent fights or problems. Siblings can play together.
0 Baseline/Adequate	Refers to getting along for the most part with siblings. Some fights occur among siblings, and siblings do not play together frequently. Problems among siblings do not merit special attention.
-3 Serious Problem	Refers to frequent fights and inability to get along with siblings. No support to or from siblings. Intense rivalry, conflict, and/or scapegoating of siblings. Fights may result in injury, or other behavior may result in emotional damage to siblings.
7. Relationship with Peers	
Note: This item may not be applicable in all cases. This would be true if there were no peers, due to the age of the child. If this is the case, circle NA on the form.	
+2 Clear Strength	Refers to child having peers as friends, and peer group appears to be a positive influence. Gets along well with peers. Has frequent interactions. May play team sports, or participate in other school or church related clubs or groups.
0 Baseline/Adequate	Refers to child having a few peers as friends. Peers do not appear to exhibit much of a positive or negative influence on the child.
-3 Serious Problem	Refers to child's inability to form friendships with peers, or inability to get along well with peers. Child may have frequent fights with peers or avoid peers. Also, child may have peers as friends, but peer group appears to be a negative influence, including gangs, or peers involved with drugs, alcohol, and/or delinquent/criminal activities.
8. Cooperation/Motivation To Maintain the Family	
+2 Clear Strength	Refers to child being interested in staying with family/caregivers. Child is motivated to change behaviors and cooperate.
0 Baseline/Adequate	Refers to child's interest in staying with family/caregivers. Child is not observably motivated to change behaviors and cooperate, but child will accept interventions or services.
-3 Serious Problem	Refers to child's lack of interest in staying with family/caregivers. Child is not motivated to change behaviors and does not want to cooperate. Child is against any intervention or services, or child has strong desire to leave family for self-serving reasons.