

Questions to Ask When DCF Calls About a Child

Keep in mind that DCF might not know the answers to the questions you're asking, particularly if it is an emergency removal. But you want to make sure to get as much information about a child coming into your home as possible. Here are some questions you can use as a starting point:

Child's Information:

- Child's demographic and identifying information (e.g., age, name, date of birth, gender, race, etc.).
- What language does the child speak?
- What special needs or medical issues does this child have? Is he/she taking any medication?
- Any food or environmental allergies?
- What school does the child attend?
- What sorts of behaviors does this child exhibit?
- What school does the child currently attend?
- Does the child have lice?
- What are the child's likes or dislikes?
- Are there safety concerns with pets or younger children?
- What is the child's sexual orientation? Is this child sexually active?
- For infants:
 - Was there drug exposure? What type?
 - What size diaper/clothes?
- Is there anything else I need to know about this child?

Case Information:

- Why is the child in need of a foster home? Is this a new placement? If not, what is the placement history? Why did the child first enter foster care?
- If not a new placement, why is the child being moved?
- Does the child have siblings? Where are those children?
- What other placement resources have been explored (e.g., possible kinship placements)?
- What is the status of the case? Is this expected to be a short or long-term placement? What makes you believe that?
- Can I speak to former foster parents or other service providers about the child?
- Is there anything else I should know about the case?

Logistical Issues

- Are there medical, therapeutic, or specialist appointments the child needs to attend?
- Is there currently any contact with birth parents or siblings? What is the schedule and what are the logistics?
- When and how will the child be arriving?
- Is the child coming to my home with any belongings or clothing?
- If hotline or short-term: When and how will the child be picked up? By whom?

Other Notes: