

**Well-being of the Child Considerations Matrix**  
**CASA Increases the Well-being of the Children in Foster Care**

Review your recommendations to the court for outcomes of safety, permanency and **well-being**. The following are questions related to the well-being of the child to help guide CASA recommendations to the court.

Well-being Defined: Well-being is addressing and meeting the physical health, mental health, social, emotional, and educational needs of children, youth and their families.

	YES or NO	Are your recommendations for the child's well-being informed? (Based on Evidence, Observation, Information, F2F, Record Review, CPS, Placement, etc.)	MSL Lens Yes, No, N/A, Unsure	Trauma-informed Lens Yes, No, N/A, Unsure	DEI Lens Yes, No, N/A, Unsure	Bias Awareness Lens Yes, No, N/A, Unsure	Risks to child's well-being are identified and addressed	Examples
<b>Health &amp; Safety</b>								
<b>Physical Health - Ensuring children receive quality services to meet their physical health and medical needs.</b>								
Medical - Have appropriate health assessments been completed, are they up-to-date on immunizations and are health records current?								Child has had a physical and is up to date on immunizations.
Medications - Are they on the correct dosage, are there any drug interactions or possible side effects?								Foster parents are aware of all medications, dosage and side effects and keep track of refills. No drug interactions are known at this time.
Dental - Did they receive initial dental care, and are they receiving regular dental care?								All dental concerns have been addressed.
Vision and Hearing - Have they received screening and services?								Hearing and vision exams are completed.
Has the child's general behavior been observed?								Toddler is walking, jumping, pouring and speaking in 3 to 5 word sentences. Teen is playing sports and eating and sleeping well.
Are the child's health needs understood by the family?								CASA has discussed the child's physical therapy exercises to be done at home and parent has shown interest, understanding and compliance.
<b>Mental Health - Ensuring children receive quality services to meet their mental health needs; assessing emotional or behavioral problems.</b>								
Have appropriate mental health assessments been completed?								Initial assessment, diagnosis and recommendations. Needs follow up appt.
Have recommendations and referrals been addressed? Are there less-restrictive alternatives?								Child is prescribed medication and attends therapy for diagnosis.
Are mental health records current?								CASA has obtained and reviewed up-to-date mental health records.
Has the child's general behavior been observed?								Toddler is fussy during and after parent visits. Child wets the bed at the placement but not at grandma's. Teen is not eating or sleeping well when sibling visits are missed. Marked improvement in mood has been observed by foster parent since returning to karate class.
<b>Permanency: Can the child return to parents or family? Can the parents or family provide for the child's needs?</b>								
Is the parent's home safe? What risks were identified?								Free from drug paraphernalia, weapons, inappropriate material. Warm bed, food in the fridge.
Is the placement safe? What risks were identified?								Child does not appear afraid, communicates well with foster parents.
Were the child and family's needs and strengths thoroughly assessed?								Family history has been gathered and reviewed, abuse or neglect allegations are being addressed, resources are still being identified.
Did the child have the opportunity to participate in treatment planning?								Child is 2 years old and did not participate in planning. Teen helped to identify their support network and ways to stay for them to stay in contact. Youth identified possible fictive kin placements for themselves.
Was the child's cultural background considered?								The child is able to practice their religion and has access to familiar food, clothing, personal products.
Is there a need or a plan for continued services for the child after the case is dismissed?								The child began receiving Occupational Therapy for a new diagnosis while in foster care.
Did you collaborate with the family and other stakeholders?								Two Family Meetings were held for planning purposes.

<b>Connections: Preserving and reestablishing connections and continuity of family and other relationships for children.</b>								
Is the child placed with relatives or fictive kin?								Child is placed with paternal aunt and visits with grandparents regularly.
Is the child placed in the least-restrictive, most-family-like setting, appropriate to their needs?								Child is placed in group foster home rather than RTC.
Does the child visit regularly with their parents and siblings? Are they connected?								Mom is incarcerated and writes letters. Dad has weekly visits and twice-weekly phone calls.
Have you identified supportive people in the child's life?								Child is placed with one sibling and nearby another sibling who they visit and have regular phone calls with.
Are efforts being made to preserve connections to friends, support systems, religious communities and culture?								Child continues to take horseback lessons from previous trainer and goes to their same school with familiar friends and teachers.
If the child is Native American, are they placed in accordance with ICWA placement preferences?								ICWA child placement preferences are being followed.
<b>Education &amp; Development: Ensuring children receive appropriate services to meet their educational and developmental needs.</b>								
Have you verified education assessments are completed and educational supports are in place?								Early Childhood Program, tutoring, after-school programs, etc.
Has an educational decision maker been identified?								
Is there an IEP? Who is participating? Are goals being addressed?								
Are educational records current?								
<b>Older Youth and Transition - Are services needed and provided to assist the child to make the transition from foster care to independent living?</b>								
Is there a Transition Plan? Is the young person involved in transition planning?								
Is planning for the youth's education, career, employment, safe and stable housing and/or housing assistance taking place?								
Are mentors and a support system in place?								
If needed, are adult protective services or other adult services available and accessible to the youth?								
Are independent living services available?								