

*Tool 8*

JV#, Child first and last name

**Choose an agency**

*If Other, Specify:* **Enter agency**

**Safe Placement Settings Assessment (SPSA)**

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| **DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION** | | | |
| **FRAME #** | Enter FRAME # | **CPS Worker/Case Manager** | First and last name |
| **Case Name** | Enter case name | **Supervisor** | First and last name |
| **Date of Placement** | Select date | **Date of Next Review** | Select date |

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| **CHILD(REN) TO BE PLACED** | | | | |
| First and last name | Age **years old** | | **DOB**: MM/DD/YY | |
| **Native American Heritage?** | **Yes** Enter Tribe | **No** | | **Unknown** |

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| **ALTERNATE CAREGIVER(S)** | | | |
| First and last name | **Relationship to Child(ren)**  Relationship | **Phone #**  Enter phone # | **Address**  Enter address |

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| **SECTION I**  ***Child(ren)*** | |
| **What are the indicators of safety for the child(ren) currently living in the alternate caregiver’s home?** | |
| **Rating** | **Child Indicators** |
| **4** | Child is openly assertive; comfortable speaking mind; self-protective; indignant at being threatened; describes environment as safe; supportive siblings; no indication of maltreatment; very low vulnerability. |
| **3** | Child is somewhat assertive; with encouragement speaks mind; generally self-protective; describes environment as generally safe; siblings may or may not be supportive of each other; no indication of maltreatment; low vulnerability. |
| **2** | Child is reserved; uncomfortable speaking mind freely; ability to protect self is questionable; limited ability to make needs known to others; uneasy about describing environment; siblings seem detached from each other; behavior may be consistent with being maltreated; somewhat vulnerable. |
| **1** | Child is withdrawn; verbally inaccessible; cannot protect self; reluctant to seek assistance or protection; avoids discussing environment; behavior is consistent with being maltreated and feeling threatened; vulnerable. |
| **0** | Child is intimidated; afraid; avoids communicating with others; avoids direct communication with anyone; not self-protective; behaves in ways suggesting presence of threatening environment: alert for danger; siblings may be antagonistic, blaming, or overly dependent; indications of maltreatment; very vulnerable. |
| **N/A** | Child is very young or significantly developmentally delayed and cannot be assessed per the above indicators; there are no children currently living in the alternate caregiver’s home. |
| **If 1 or 0 is selected, explain what is being done to address the specific deficiency.**  Explain what is being done to address the specific deficiency. | |

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| **SECTION II**  ***Alternate Caregiver(s)*** | |
| **What are the indicators of safety for the alternate caregiver(s) currently living in the home?** | |
| **Rating** | **Alternate Caregiver Indicators** |
| **4** | The alternate caregiver is very open; shows conscience and empathy; general history of concern for child’s well-being; closely bonded to own children; self-aware; highly motivated; examples of protective behavior; product of a nurturing environment; acknowledges and takes responsibility; accurate viewpoint of placed child; has personal support for caregiver role. |
| **3** | The alternate caregiver is generally open; acceptable conscience and empathy; a history of protectiveness for own children; attached to own children; generally motivated; limited self-awareness; no indications of negative history; generally acknowledges and takes responsibility; acceptable viewpoint of placed child; has some support for caregiver role. |
| **2** | The alternate caregiver is reserved; displays conscience and minimal empathy; some evidence of previous parenting difficulties; minimally attached to own children; minimally motivated; limited self-awareness; few examples of protective behavior; product of unhappy histories; varies in acknowledging and taking responsibility; detached viewpoint of placed child; no support for caregiver role. |
| **1** | The alternate caregiver is manipulative; avoiding; difficult to determine conscience, empathy or history of protectiveness; questionable attachment to own children; somewhat unmotivated; poor self-awareness; history as child uncertain; tendency toward blaming others for difficulties; no specific empathy or individualized viewpoint of placed child; some support against caregiver role. |
| **0** | The alternate caregiver is closed; indifferent/lacks empathy apparent in manner; poor parenting history; lack of concern for own children’s well-being; somewhat detached from own children; unmotivated; distorted self-awareness; no evidence of protective behavior; likely maltreated/unsafe as child; does not take responsibility; possesses an inaccurate viewpoint of placed child; considerable support against caregiver role. |
| **If 1 or 0 is selected, explain what is being done to address the specific deficiency.**  Explain what is being done to address the specific deficiency. | |

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| **SECTION III**  ***Alternate Caregiver’s Family*** | |
| **What are the indicators of safety within the alternate caregiver’s family?** | |
| **Rating** | **Alternate Caregiver’s Family Indicators** |
| **4** | The family members possess excellent physical, emotional, cognitive capacity; reality oriented; clear roles and positive relationships; value and practice honesty; coping and/or experiencing low stress; available protection and supervision; sufficient health and other resources; accessible: transportation/phones; can meet unusual and specific child needs; excellent living arrangements; socially integrated into community. |
| **3** | The family members possess adequate physical, emotional, cognitive capacity; generally accurate reality testing; general role clarity and acceptable relationships; honest; protective; coping adequately while stress varies; safe living arrangements; some social integration. |
| **2** | The family members’ physical, emotional, cognitive capacity in need of support; limited accuracy in reality testing; imprecise role clarity and unsatisfying relationships; generally honest; some examples and history of protectiveness; coping varies or moderate stress; generally safe living arrangements; casual social integration. |
| **1** | The family members possess limited physical, emotional, cognitive capacity; often view reality inaccurately; varied role effectiveness and tense relationships; sometimes deceptive; limited evidence of protectiveness; limited coping or experiencing moderate to high stress; questionable living arrangements; superficial or conflictual involvement with community. |
| **0** | The family members possess deficient physical, emotional, cognitive capacity; inaccurate reality testing; ineffective roles and hostile, neglectful or manipulative relationships; some history of maltreatment; poor coping or experiencing high stress; unsafe living arrangements; closed and avoids community. |
| **If 1 or 0 is selected, explain what is being done to address the specific deficiency.**  Explain what is being done to address the specific deficiency. | |

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| **SECTION IV**  ***Community*** | |
| **What are the indicators of safety within the alternative caregiver’s community?** | |
| **Rating** | **Community Indicators** |
| **4** | Alternate caregiver’s family/children have daily to weekly contact with others in community; friends, neighbors, relatives or others routinely provide support and assistance; family/children involved with professionals or agencies currently working under a planned agreement or involvement and contact is routine and frequent. |
| **3** | Alternate caregiver’s family/children have weekly to bi-weekly contact with others in community; generally family receives support from friends, neighbors, relatives and others; family/children involved with professionals or agencies currently working under a planned agreement or involvement and contact is occasional. |
| **2** | Alternate caregiver’s family/children have bi-weekly to monthly contact with others in the community; friends, neighbors, relatives or others occasionally provide support and assistance; family/children sporadically involved with professionals or agencies but are not currently working under a planned agreement or involvement. |
| **1** | Alternate caregiver’s family/children have monthly or less contact with others in the community; friends, neighbors, relatives or others do not provide support and assistance; family/children are not involved with professionals or agencies. |
| **0** | Alternate caregiver’s family/children have virtually no contact with others in the community; friends, neighbors, relatives or others are antagonistic; family/children avoid professionals or agencies. |
| **If 1 or 0 is selected, explain what is being done to address the specific deficiency.**  Explain what is being done to address the specific deficiency. | |

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| **SECTION V**  ***Acceptance*** | |
| **Do/will the alternative caregiver’s family members accept the child(ren) into the home?** | |
| **Rating** | **Acceptance Indicators** |
| **4** | Placed child is fully embraced as part of the alternate caregiver’s household/family; positive/fulfilling interaction/relationship exists between the placed child and others in the home; placed child helped to fit in; is always included in activities and provided for the same as others; placed child is cherished; other children - placed child attachment; placed child is not held accountable for circumstances requiring placement. |
| **3** | Placed child is accepted as part of the alternate caregiver’s household/family; acceptable interaction/relationship between the placed child and others in the home; the placed child is encouraged to participate in activities and provided for the same as others; other children - placed child acceptance; the placed child is highly valued personally. |
| **2** | Placed child is accommodated as part of the alternate caregiver’s household/family; casual/courteous interaction/relationship exists between the placed child and others in the home; minimal attempts in assisting placed child to fit in; placed child sometimes not included in activities; may be provided for differently from others; the placed child is generally valued personally; other children - placed child indulgence; may be some reservations about placed child’s responsibility for need for placement. |
| **1** | Placed child is tolerated; likely not viewed as part of alternate caregiver’s household/family; strained/difficult interaction/relationship exists between the placed child and others in the home; little effort to assist placed child to fit in; placed child frequently excluded from activities; clearly provided for differently than others; other children - placed child antagonism; the placed child is valued generally as a relative; consider placed child somewhat responsible for placement. |
| **0** | Alternate caregiver’s household/family is intolerant toward placed child; do not accept placed child; conflicted interaction/relationship exists between placed child and others in home; not allowed to fit in; segregated from activities; does not receive the same provisions as others; other children - placed child hostility; the placed child is not valued; blamed for placement. |
| **If 1 or 0 is selected, explain what is being done to address the specific deficiency.**  Explain what is being done to address the specific deficiency. | |

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| **SECTION VI**  ***Alternate Placement Plan*** | |
| **Is the plan developed with the alternate caregiver(s) and family sufficient to assure the child(ren)’s safety?** | |
| **Rating** | **Plan Indicators** |
| **4** | Alternate caregivers fully understand/are attentive to the placed child’s vulnerability/need for protection; a very effective general plan for caring for the placed child exists/will meet the child’s needs; an acceptable, specific protective/supervision plan exists including responsibilities, timing, activity, acceptable effective means for child management and discipline; high commitment/capability for carrying out plans. |
| **3** | Alternate caregivers generally understand/are respectful of placed child’s vulnerability/need for protection; a reasonable plan for caring for the placed child exists, likely will meet child’s needs; an acceptable protective/supervision plan exists; alternate caregivers are generally committed to and capable of carrying out plans; plans include an acceptable means for child management and discipline. |
| **2** | Alternate caregivers partially understand placed child’s vulnerability/need for protection; a vague/nonspecific plan for caring for placed child exists; a vague/nonspecific protective/supervision plan exists; caregivers are moderately committed to/somewhat capable of implementing plans; plans do not include references to child management and discipline. Plans do not take into account the demands of having several children in the home. |
| **1** | Alternate caregivers do not understand placed child’s vulnerability/need for protection; an inadequate plan for caring for placed child exists; an inadequate protective/supervision plan exists; caregivers’ commitment to and capacity for implementing plans are uncertain; plans include undesirable means for child management and discipline. There may be too many children in the home. |
| **0** | Alternate caregivers do not believe and/or care about placed child’s vulnerability/need for protection; no or an unacceptable general plan for caring for placed child exists; no (or an unacceptable) protective/supervision plan exists; alternate caregivers are not committed to and capable of creating or implementing plans. There are too many children in the home to assure safety. |
| **If 1 or 0 is selected, explain what is being done to address the specific deficiency.**  Explain what is being done to address the specific deficiency. | |

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| **SECTION VII**  ***Oversight*** | |
| **Is/are the alternate caregiver(s) and home conditions amenable to agency oversight?** | |
| **Rating** | **Oversight Indicators** |
| **4** | Alternate caregiver’s family is very open/routinely include/involved with non-family entities; eager to work actively; guarantees and seeks out agency home visits; readily makes child available at home/other locations; always accessible in person/by phone; goes out of way to be available; will seek help from the agency and other appropriate persons. |
| **3** | Alternate caregiver’s family is generally open/often include/involved with non-family entities; willing to work on case issues; agreeable to agency home visits; will make child available at home/other locations; usually accessible in person/by phone; generally available; likely to seek help from the agency and other appropriate persons. |
| **2** | Alternate caregiver’s family is somewhat cautious/sometimes include/involved with non-family entities; places limits on working on case issues; accepts agency home visits; will make child available at home; sporadically accessible in person/by phone; availability often a matter of convenience; may seek help from the agency. |
| **1** | Alternate caregiver’s family is guarded/seldom include/involved with non-family entities; hedges making commitment to work with the agency or superficial agreement; avoids agency home visits; does not always make child available at home/other locations; seldom accessible in person/by phone; generally not available; unlikely to seek help from the agency/may seek other appropriate persons as a first option. |
| **0** | Alternate caregiver’s family is closed and/or manipulative/do not include/not involved with non-family entities; wants to work independent of the agency; refuses or protests need for agency home visits; does not make child available at home/other locations; not accessible in person/by phone; not available; will not seek help from the agency/other appropriate persons. |
| **If 1 or 0 is selected, explain what is being done to address the specific deficiency.**  Explain what is being done to address the specific deficiency. | |

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| **SECTION VIII**  ***Natural Family – Alternate Caregiver Relationship*** | |
| **What is the nature of the relationship amongst these kin?** | |
| **Rating** | **Natural Family – Alternate Caregiver Relationship Indicators** |
| **4** | Natural parents-alternate caregiver relationships are respectful/accepting/mutual affection. Natural parents accept/support alternate caregiver’s role/will not interfere/intrude/inappropriately become involved with alternate caregiver’s home/responsibilities/view alternate caregiver as best place for child; alternate caregivers share the agency’s view of the natural parents’ capacity to care for their children. Alternate caregivers strongly believe the child should be placed; can effectively/independently fend off natural parents’ attempts to countermand placement plans; alternate caregivers are fully collaborating with the agency with respect to natural parents. |
| **3** | Natural parents-alternate caregiver relationships generally respectful/accepting/mutual affection. Natural parents generally accept/support alternate caregiver’s role; natural parents unlikely to interfere/intrude/attempt to inappropriately/become involved with alternate caregiver’s home/responsibilities; accepting of alternate caregiver as best place for child. Alternate caregivers generally share agency’s view of the natural parents’ capacity to care for their children; agree with placement; can effectively gain assistance to fend off natural parents’ attempts to countermand placement plans; fully cooperating with the agency with respect to natural parents. |
| **2** | Natural parents-alternate caregiver relationships generally passive/detached/minimal involvement. Natural parents question alternate caregiver role; likely to manipulate, interfere, intrude or attempt to inappropriately become involved with the alternate caregiver’s home or responsibilities; not accepting of alternate caregiver as best place for child. Alternate caregivers not certain of agency’s view of the natural parents’ capacity to care for their children; accept the child should be placed; cannot effectively gain assistance to fend off natural parents’ attempts to countermand placement plans; minimally cooperating with the agency while being influenced by natural parents. |
| **1** | Natural parents-alternate caregiver relationships generally tense/conflicted/suspicious. Natural parents challenge alternate caregiver role; will manipulate/interfere/intrude/attempt to inappropriately become involved with the alternate caregiver’s home or responsibilities; adamantly disapprove of placement. Alternate caregivers generally do not share the agency’s view of natural parents’ capacity to care for their children; not certain of need for placement; avoiding the agency in favor of the natural parents. |
| **0** | Natural parents – alternate caregiver relationships hostile/reinforce dysfunction. Natural parents support alternate caregiver role for self-interest; connive with alternate caregiver; view alternate caregiver as place for child for own purposes. Alternate caregivers do not share the agency’s view of the natural parents’ capacity to care for their children; do not believe child should be placed; alternate caregivers and natural parents are in collusion. |
| **If 1 or 0 is selected, explain what is being done to address the specific deficiency.**  Explain what is being done to address the specific deficiency. | |

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| **SECTION IX**  ***Placed Child(ren) – Alternate Caregiver Relationship*** | |
| **What is the nature of the relationship between the placed child(ren) and the alternate caregiver family?** | |
| **Rating** | **Placed Child(ren) – Alternate Caregiver Relationship Indicators** |
| **4** | Warm/belonging/affectionate relationship between placed child/alternate caregiver; placed child very close to alternate caregiver’s children; alternate caregiver has life-long involvement with placed child, alternate caregiver is very familiar with placed child and his/her uniqueness/ needs; placed child experiences comfort and security with alternate caregiver. |
| **3** | Generally warm/accepting/familiar relationship between placed child/alternate caregiver; placed child gets along well with alternate caregiver’s children; alternate caregiver has months of involvement with placed child, is generally familiar with placed child and his/her uniqueness/needs; placed child generally feels relaxed with alternate caregiver. |
| **2** | Casual/cordial/not well-developed relationship between placed child/alternate caregiver; placed child and alternate caregiver’s children not familiar with each other; alternate caregiver has short-term involvement with placed child, is minimally familiar with placed child and his/her uniqueness and needs; placed child apprehensive with alternate caregiver. |
| **1** | Tense/detached/unfamiliar relationship between placed child/alternate caregiver; placed child feels intimidated by, out-of-place with or is scapegoat of alternate caregiver’s children; alternate caregiver has unpleasant or no involvement with placed child, is unfamiliar with placed child’s uniqueness/needs; placed child experiences tension and dread with alternate caregiver. |
| **0** | Distrustful/disliking/hostile/un-accepting relationship between placed child/alternate caregiver; placed child is fearful of alternate caregiver’s children; alternate caregivers have established negative involvement with placed child, are unconcerned with or non-accepting of placed child’s uniqueness and needs; placed child is fearful with alternate caregiver. |
| **If 1 or 0 is selected, explain what is being done to address the specific deficiency.**  Explain what is being done to address the specific deficiency. | |

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| **CONCLUSION**  ***Confirming A Safe Environment*** | | | |
| **Confirm whether the alternate placement setting is a safe environment for the child(ren).** | | | |
| **SECTION I** | ***Child(ren)*** | | Enter the Rating number selected |
| **SECTION II** | ***Alternate Caregiver(s)*** | | Enter the Rating number selected |
| **SECTION III** | ***Alternate Caregiver’s Family*** | | Enter the Rating number selected |
| **SECTION IV** | ***Community*** | | Enter the Rating number selected |
| **SECTION V** | ***Acceptance*** | | Enter the Rating number selected |
| **SECTION VI** | ***Alternate Placement Plan*** | | Enter the Rating number selected |
| **SECTION VII** | ***Oversight*** | | Enter the Rating number selected |
| **SECTION VIII** | ***Natural Family – Alternate Caregiver Relationship*** | | Enter the Rating number selected |
| **SECTION IX** | ***Placed Child(ren) – Alternate Caregiver Relationship*** | | Enter the Rating number selected |
| **TOTAL** | ***Add ratings of all sections I - IX*** | | Enter the Total |
| **SCORE** | ***Divide the total of all sections by 9*** | | Enter the Total divided by 9 |
| *If the overall score is 1.4 or lower, detail the plan of action to remediate the safety concerns in the alternate placement.*  The overall score is 1.4 or lower – describe the plan of action to remediate safety concerns. | | | |
| **CPS Worker/Case Manager Signature** | | **Date** | |
| **Supervisor’s Signature** | | **Date** | |

*Print a copy and file in the agency case record.*