

ASSESSING SAFETY OF A CHILD WITH A PARENT WHO HAS A DISABILITY

Questions to consider

EXTENT OF MALTREATMENT AND NEGLECT

Have I used the same standard with parents who do not have a disability?

What is their recollection of the situation?



ASSESSING CIRCUMSTANCES OF ALLEGATIONS



Can any supports or modifications or changes help the situation?

Ask the parent to demonstrate or articulate how they do something specific in regards to concerns about safety and the allegations.

How does the parenting look all the time versus the circumstances of the current allegations and the actions that need to be addressed?

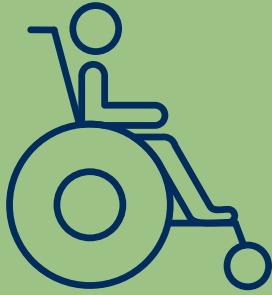
Are they interested in talking with other parents about how they solve problems?

ASSESSING PARENT PERSPECTIVE

Is this parent defensive because of prevalent past discrimination based on disability?

Am I making assumptions about the help someone with a disability needs? Am I allowing them independence?





ASSESSING PHYSICAL CAPACITY

What are ways a parent with a disability has adapted to meet their child's needs?

What resources, tips and methods have helped them to care for their child, related or not related to their disability?

ASSESSING JUDGMENT

What was the parent's thought process in making a parenting decision?

What standards are being used to assess rational decision making? Why did a parent use certain methods?

How many times has this parent heard judgement from others that the parent is incapable? Am I extending empathy and compassion?



RESOURCES

- **National Federation of the Blind:** A resource for both workers and parents. nfb.org/our-community/blind-parents is a website with resources for parents, including podcasts, parent groups, mentoring, and videos.
- **Noisyvision.org** is non-profit organization that supports the empowerment of partially sighted or hard of hearing people and educates the community on the topics of accessibility and social inclusion.
- Equity within Child Welfare Work page on OWL



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