

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE MANUAL	
	Chapter 5: General Case Management	Effective Date: June 1, 2011
	Section 16: Caregiver Strength and Needs	Version: 1

POLICY [NEW]

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will utilize the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Caregiver and Family Module questions to determine the strengths and needs of each parent, guardian or custodian which will assist in the identification of appropriate services.

The Family Case Manager (FCM) will identify the strength and needs of the parent, guardian or custodian throughout the life of the case and at least every 180 days by using the CANS Caregiver and Family Module questions, and address each need rated 2 or 3 in the [Case Plan \(SF 2956/DCS0046\)](#). Additionally, any need rated a 3 requires immediate attention.

Code References

N/A

PROCEDURE

DCS will engage the Child and Family Team (CFT) to assist in determining the services for the parent, guardian or custodian, using the [Indiana Caregiver Strength and Needs Assessment](#) for guidance.

The FCM will:

1. Determine the strengths and needs of the parent, guardian or custodian;
2. Document and address any needs rated 2 or 3 in the [Case Plan \(SF 2956/DCS0046\)](#);
3. Determine an immediate action for any need rated 3; and
4. Discuss with their supervisor the recommended immediate action, if necessary.

The Supervisor will:

1. Discuss any questions or regarding the strength and needs of the parent, guardian or custodian and any recommendations resulting from the identified needs;
2. Approve an immediate course of action for any need rated a 3, and;
3. Monitor the documentation of any items rated 2 or 3 on the [Case Plan \(SF 2956/DCS0046\)](#).

PRACTICE GUIDANCE

The [Indiana Caregiver Strength and Needs Assessment](#) is an optional tool which allows the FCM to rate a Primary and Secondary Caregiver separately. Depending on the situation, a

caregiver who is rated a 2 in one area may have that item mitigated by the strength of other caregiver. Critical thinking skills along with regular case staffing in combination with the CFT Meetings will allow the FCM to recommend the best plan for the parent, guardian or custodian.

FORMS AND TOOLS

1. [Indiana Caregiver Strength and Needs Assessment](#) – Available in Hard Copy
2. [5.B Tool Indiana Strength and Needs Definitions](#)–Available in Hard Copy
3. [Case Plan \(SF 2956/DCS0046\)](#) - Available in the Indiana Child Welfare Information System

RELATED INFORMATION