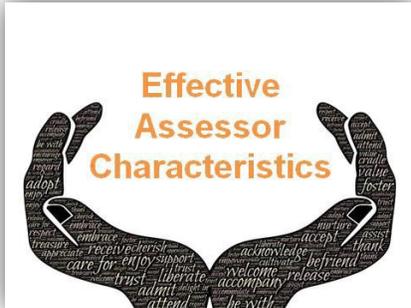


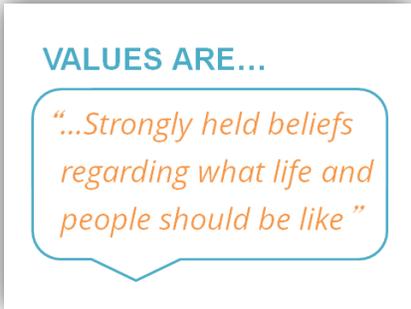
Section II: What's in it for Me?

- Effective Assessment includes a prescribed set of knowledge and skills needed by an Assessor to complete a thorough and accurate assessment.



Section III: Values and the Family Assessment Process

- Personal biases can influence or interfere with the outcomes of a family assessment.
- Assessors must recognize how personal values may surface and affect their decision-making during the assessment process.



Section IV: Diversity Issues in Assessment and Placement

- Diversity competence is a requirement for conducting a quality family assessment.
- Assessors will serve clients from vastly different backgrounds from their own.
- A diversity competent Assessor understands the countless factors that create an individual's diversity, and will respond accordingly during the assessment process



Section V: Purpose and Goals of the Family Assessment

- The terms, "family assessment" and "homestudy" are used interchangeably.
- An in-depth and complete adoptive/foster family assessment is a critical first step towards the successful placement of a child and requires a high degree of competence and skill.



Section VI: The Family Assessment – Assessment Categories

- The ten assessment categories used to conduct a family assessment include:
 - Attitudes and Beliefs Regarding Foster Care and Adoption Issues
 - Motivation and Expectation of adoption
 - Personal and Emotional Maturity
 - Stability and Quality of Interpersonal Relationships
 - Resilience, Coping Skills, and History of Stress Management
 - Openness of Family System
 - Parenting Skills and Abilities
 - Empathy and Perspective Taking Ability
 - Entitlement
 - Ability for "Hands-on" Parenting
 - Lifelong Commitment
 - Religious Affiliation and/or Spiritual Beliefs



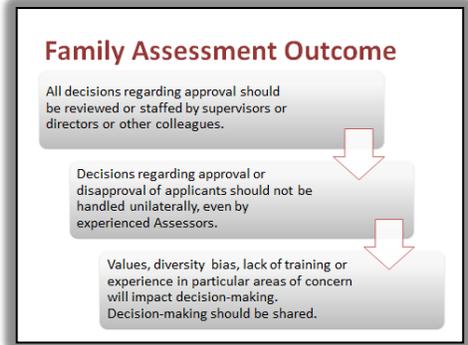
- Families enter the assessment process functioning at one of three behavioral levels on a continuum: Strength; Minimal; or Caution. The family assessment helps determine a family's level of functioning for each of the assessment categories.
- A variety of strategies can be used during the family assessment to gather important data about the applicant family. The interview is perhaps the most used strategy.
- Assessors can glean more effective data during an interview by using behavioral vs. theoretical questions.
- Trauma history is an important area to explore during the family assessment to ensure a family's ability to manage any trauma triggers which might surface throughout their parenting.
- A large family assessment is a part of the family assessment process and requires additional considerations when there will be a total of five or more birth, kinship, foster, or adopted children in the home.

Section IX: Finalizing Approval

There are three outcomes to the family assessment.
The family may be:

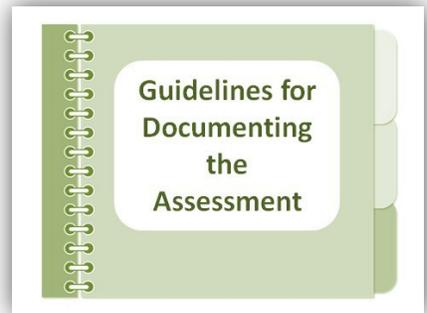
- Approved
- Deferred
- Denied

An assessor should use skill and diplomacy when disapproving a family for an adoptive placement and notify the family in writing regarding the reasons for the decision for each of the three outcomes.



Section X: Documenting the Family Assessment

- The family assessment should be completed thoroughly by an Assessor and presented in language that is clear, concise and accurate.
- Assessors should consider taking advantage of trainings available to enhance their writing



Section XI: Assessing the Strengths and Needs of the Child

- The Child Assessment is a critical first step towards selecting a family who can meet the child's ongoing needs and be the best "match" for the child, either temporarily or on a lifelong basis.
- An Assessor is responsible for thoroughly assessing the needs of each child and knowing where to gather critical information about the child's background.
- The prediction path is a strategy used to conduct child assessments. It contains three parts:
 - The Placement Trail
 - The Strengths/Needs Sheet
 - The Prediction Narrative

Overview of the Child Assessment
Assess the child's current level of functioning and needs
Identify the child's potential future needs
Recognize the long term impact of abuse, neglect, and sexual victimization on development
Identify the child's diversity needs
Evaluate the child's strengths and needs
Identify the required knowledge and skills needed to effectively parent the child through adulthood
Identify the extent of contact with birth relatives and level of openness

Section XII: Matching and Selection of Families for Children

- The Matching and Selection process provides steps for an Assessor to consider in order to make good matches between a child and an adoptive family.
- An Assessor must consider the federal and administrative requirements during the matching and selection process.
- A team approach is a positive strategy for making sound matching and selection decisions of family resources for children.

Matching and Selection: The Task of the Assessor	
To Do List 1. 2. 3. 4. 5.	The assessor must: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify strengths and limitations within the family.• Review "Second Look" behaviors to determine their potential impact on the child.• Evaluate the family's overall ability and motivation to meet the child's needs on a short or long term basis.

