

ASSESSMENT



“The client’s past is part of the present structure; you can’t understand one without the other; and understanding the past as well as the larger situation is necessary to address the reported problem. The assessment process is figuring out how all of this fits together.”

— From the National Resource Center for Family-Centered Practice and Permanency Planning

WHAT DOES AN ASSESSMENT DO?

- Identifies whether an individual or family is eligible for services.
- Helps the caseworker gather information to understand the presenting problems of individuals and families.
- Begins the process of identifying what services are needed.
- Provides guidance for individualized case plans.
- Aids in evaluating client progress and outcomes.
- Assists in evaluating the effectiveness of chosen interventions.

TYPES OF ASSESSMENT

- **General Assessment:** The steps needed to increase independence and self-sufficiency.
- **Individuals Indian Money:** The account holder’s needs in managing finances and living needs.
- **Adult Protective Services:** An adult’s safety and need for protection.
- **Child Protective Services:** A child’s safety and need for protection.
- **Child and Family Services:** The needs of the child, issues/problems to be resolved, and the safety of the child should the child remain in the home.
- **ICWA:** The appropriateness for a child to be returned to the reservation, assess relatives and their resources to care for the child, or assess if the child can return home.

STAGES OF ASSESSMENT

STAGE 1

1. Receive initial report info and determine eligibility for services
2. Document report details
3. Follow ICPA and local office protocol
4. Make sure the initial report is complete
5. Determine the next response steps
6. Review assessment requirements

STAGE 2

1. Gather information (in the field and or the office) about the incident and general functioning
 - a. Determine whether abuse or neglect occurred
 - b. Consider whether Differential Response (DR) is appropriate
 - c. Identify the needs of further support
2. Assess risk, need for protection, strengths, and impacts of trauma
3. Participate in Child Protection Team and Multi-disciplinary Team meetings
4. Complete assessment
 - a. Evaluate information gathered in the assessment process
 - b. Determine whether the report is substantiated or unsubstantiated
 - c. Determine whether individual or family needs services
 - d. Determine agency responsibility

