

Discussing the Reported Concern

- › What is your understanding of what was reported?
- › What do you think would cause someone to call our agency about this issue?
- › Can you say a little more about what you were thinking/saying/doing when [the incident] happened?
- › It's really clear to me that you don't want us continually in your life. What do you think we need to see in order to close your case? What, if anything, would help prevent this from happening again in the future?
- › Have there been times when you were angry with your child and you did NOT spank/slap/hit him/her? What was different during those times?

Child Functioning

- › What are you most proud of about your child(ren)?
- › What challenges you most about parenting your child(ren)?
- › If your child is having a bad day, what do you do to help him/her feel better? What is most helpful?
- › What does/did your mom/dad do to help you feel happy/safe/etc.?
- › What makes you feel sad? What do you do when you are feeling sad? What helps you feel better?

Adult Functioning

- › Even though you are faced with all of this, how is it that you have been determined to do the best you can for your children?
- › How is your family different from the family you grew up in (in terms of the home, other family members, discipline, etc.)? How is it the same? What were your parents like?
- › As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? What influenced you to want to be/do that?
- › What do you find most rewarding about being a parent and raising children? Most difficult?
- › How did you meet the person that you are/were in a relationship with? How would you describe him/her? What do/did you admire most about him/her? What about him/her challenges/challenged you?
- › What do you do to help yourself deal with the pressures of raising children?
- › Who supports you during difficult times in your life? How do they help you?

Family Functioning

- › We've been talking about a lot of serious stuff. To give me a more balanced picture, can you tell me some of the things that you feel are good about your family?
- › What would your children say if I asked them how they can tell that you love them?
- › What would your parent(s) say you are good at?
- › What do you do when your family/parents/children are having a disagreement? What seems to help most in those situations?
- › What would need to change in order for you to feel more connected as a family?



Adapted from the American Humane Association's Differential Response Primer curriculum