QPI Foster Parent Survey

For Foster Families:

INTRODUCTION:

Hello ______________.

This is ______________, the CAFAP Liaison for the _____________ DCF office. DCF's Region 6 (New Britain & Meriden Office's) is implementing the Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI).

As part of this initiative, a brand for foster care in Region 6 was developed to set expectations for foster parents, DCF staff, and other team members.

Our brand is "Foster parents are caring members of the community who are committed to weathering the storm and walking the journey of life with children and their families while fostering permanent connections. They are respected, supported members of a professional team who provide children with safe, stable and nurturing homes and affirm each child's culture and identity. Foster parents are skilled, patient, flexible and open to a life long learning experience. They are valued advocates for children and mentors for families."

If you want to learn more about QPI, I'd be happy to explain further and talk about how you can participate when the survey is over.

Several foster parents, CAFAP, and DCF staff developed draft surveys for foster parents and DCF Workers, and would appreciate your feedback on the draft survey. Your feedback is very important for DCF to hear so that it can continue to improve the quality of its services.

The survey should take about 10 minutes.

I'll be asking you a set of questions about your work with DCF and other agencies. We will discuss your answer briefly and then I'll ask you do a numerical rating. Please answer these questions honestly. Your
feedback is confidential unless you would like us to follow-up on any specific issues or concerns you identify.

******After the questions are completed and rated, please ask the individual if they have any feedback on the survey itself (questions, ratings) and the process. Please thank the individual for their time and feedback.******

1. **Type of Caregiver**
   - Relative/SS
   - Foster
   - Adoptive
   - Resource Family

2. **Years Licensed**
   - 0-2
   - 3-5
   - 6-8
   - 9-12
   - 13-16
   - 17-20
   - 20+

   Commitment to Weathering the Storm - no unnecessary placements, transitions when moves do occur, sticking it out during tough times.

When was the last time a child moved into or out of your home?
When did (name of child) move into your home?
Was that transition handled in a child-centered way?
Was the transition handled with the child's needs as the most important aspect of the move into your home?
Were your feelings and needs taken into consideration?
Were you part of the planning process?

3. **Discuss briefly**

   Discuss briefly

4. **Ask the respondent to rate the experience from Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree**

   Strongly Disagree
   Somewhat Disagree
   Somewhat Agree
   Agree
   Strongly Agree

   *Ask the respondent to rate the experience from Strongly to Strongly Agree*
Strongly Disagree | Somewhat Disagree | Somewhat Agree | Agree | Strongly Agree
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Disagree to Strongly Agree
Strongly Disagree

Walking the journey of life with children and their families - work with birth families, DCF assisting

Have you received support for, working with birth families (including training)?
Have you received support for, working with the children’s parents and other family members?
Do you know where the child’s siblings are?
Have you been able to keep the child in contact with them?
Have you been helped to maintain contact with the child and family after the child is no longer living with you?
(Note: Remove from child specific survey unless we are calling closed files).

5. Discuss briefly

Discuss briefly

6. Ask the respondent to rate the experience from Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree

Member of a professional Team

Do you feel that you are a respected member of the team?
Have you received the information you need?
Have you been part of/kept informed about decision-making?
Have you been encouraged to participate in ACRs and is your voice heard?
Are you encouraged to take part in the child’s education and medical care

7. Discuss briefly

Discuss briefly

8. Ask the respondent to rate the experience from Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree

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Court Members of a professional team

Do you communicate with the child’s attorney prior to court?
Did the child’s attorney communicate effectively with the child?
Have you worked with the GAL if any way?
Do you participate in the court hearing in some way (in person or in writing)?
Do you feel welcome and heard in court?

9. Discuss briefly

Discuss briefly

10. Ask the respondent to rate the experience from Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree

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Strongly Disagree  Somewhat Disagree  Somewhat Agree  Agree  Strongly Agree

rate the experience from Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree

Provide children with safe, stable, nurturing homes - normalcy included here- treating as one of the family

Do you feel that you are allowed to treat this child normally as if she were a permanent part of your family?
If so, give examples.
If not, why not?
Have you had support in meeting the needs of your family, including your other children, if applicable?
Have you received support for dealing with the impact of fostering on your relationship with your partner?

11. Discuss briefly

Discuss briefly

12. Ask the respondent to rate the experience from Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree

Affirm each child's culture and identity - affirming and provide opportunities to connect with/maintain culture

Have you been provided with information about the child’s culture and
identity and been supported in maintaining that culture? (for relatives) Has your family culture been supported?

13. Discuss briefly

Discuss briefly

14. Ask the respondent to rate the experience from Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree

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Foster parents are skilled - invitation to and attendance at trainings, meetings re: child's needs

Have you had opportunities to receive the training you need to meet the child’s (and family’s) needs?
Is the training easy for you to access?
What additional trainings would you like?

15. Discuss briefly

Discuss briefly

16. Ask the respondent to rate the experience from Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree

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Valued Advocates - advocate for their youth and family

Do you feel comfortable and safe advocating for (insert name of foster child here) needs?
If not why not?
If so, please give examples.

**17. Discuss Briefly**

Discuss Briefly

**18. Ask the respondent to rate the experience from Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree**

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**19. In general, is there any support you feel you need or could have received?**

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