

CHECKLISTS OF FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH RETURN OF THE CHILDREN IN THEIR BIRTH FAMILIES

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From: "Return home: return of children removed from their families" R. Bullok, M. Little, S. Millem, 1993, Dartmouth Publishers, Oldershort, England.

INTRODUCTION

These handouts contain three checklists which can be useful for the social workers in their work with reintegration process. They contain factors affecting on possibility for the child to return to birth family from the institution or foster carer.

Checklists were developed as a result of surveys conducted in the United Kingdom. Pridniestrovsky social workers might consider that not all factors are applicable to Pridniestrovie. However, there are many useful things in the checklists. Checklists remind what questions to be clarified to make decision on reintegration and what questions to be worked out with the family to increase options for reintegration.

CHECKLIST A: Factors associated with the child return during first six months after removal/separation.

A) Questions clarified at the time when the child was placed in the institution:

Was a separation from the child on voluntary base.

To what extent the parents and children consider that problems led to separation from the child were resolved or became easier due to placing of his/her with the foster carer.

Are prospective of the participants of that situation regarding reintegration realistic or fantasies are mixed with realism in their perception.

Are there relatively less stressing factors in the family (in issues associated with children).

Do they appreciate relationship in the family.

B) Questions have being clarified when reintegration issue was highlighted:

Did the child have regular contacts with the family members during his/her absence at home.

To what extent did the social worker encourage contacts of the family with child.

Problems led to separation are partly resolved at the moment.

Family considers itself as a single whole.

Child's life is as continue based factors (including family relations, education, communication and etc.).

After return home, the child keeps this area - room, bed, toys, other belongings and souvenirs.

Social work plan is comprehensive, i.e. the family continues to care child and participates in decision-making.

All these factors are "protective"; their availability allows fast return of the child. There are also "risky" situations which hamper return - they have to be compared with above factors.

C) Risk factors which can delay the child return.

Were there cases of cruel treatment and/or severe neglect of the child at the time of his/her separation

from the family.

After highlighting issue on reintegration, new data regarding poor treatment of the child affect on reintegration plan.

CHECKLIST B

Children separated from home returned after six but earlier than eighteen months.

A) Questions clarified within six months after removal.

Were there cases of cruel treatment and/or severe neglect at the moment of the child removal.

Child does not have sisters and brothers; and if they are, they are separated from each other during the child absence at home.

Relatives of the child, particular his/her parents participate in decision-making.

Family and children believe that problems led to separation were resolved or became easier due to placing of the child in institution.

Child's life is as continue based factors (including family relations, education, communication and etc.).

After his/her return, the child keeps own area - room, bed, toys, belongings or souvenirs.

There are not so many stressing factors in the family (issues with regard to children).

Plan of social work is comprehensive. i.e the family continued to take care of the child and participated in decision-making.

Does the family appreciate relationship in the family.

B) Questions clarified at the moment whet reintegration issues have being highlighted.

After discussing issue on reintegration unexpected changes in the parents' health, family relations and its

composition did not happen.

Do the social workers face difficulties during visits to the family or information collection.

Are prospective of the participants of that situation regarding reintegration realistic or fantasies are mixed with realism in their perception.

Problems led to the child removal are partly resolved at the moment.

Family considers itself as a single whole.

CHECKLIST C

Children separated from home for more than two but less than five years.

Mother is a main source of emotional support for the child.

Child-male.

Family receives a financial support from the social service.

Family and children consider that problems led to the child removal were partly or fully resolved due to placing of the child in the institution.

During separation, there was no important information concerning problems in the family.

Social workers do not have any difficulties during visits to the family or information collection.

Prospective of the participants of situation regarding the child reintegration is realistic.

Problems led to separation are partly resolved at present.

Child's life is as continue based factors (including family relations, education, communication and etc.).

After his/her return, the child keeps own area - room, bed, toys, belongings or souvenirs.

There are not so many stressing factors in the family (issues with regard to children).

Plan of the social work is comprehensive, i.e. the family continues to take care of the child and participates in decision-making.

Does the family appreciate relationship in the family.