

Guidelines for Choosing a Specific Service Provider

Use these questions as a guide in order to determine whether or not a **specific service provider** is appropriate for the family.

- 1) Will the selected service provider address the contributing factors to the safety threats, risk of maltreatment, or absent/diminished protective capacities?
- 2) Is the service best suited to deal with the safety threats and the needs of the caregiver and/or child identified during the safety/risk assessments?
- 3) Will the service provider be culturally appropriate?
- 4) How does the family feel about this provider?
- 5) Has this provider served this family before? If so, did the service yield positive outcomes?
- 6) What skills are required of the service provider? Does he or she have the required competence?
- 7) What factors enhance or prohibit the family's participation and cooperation with this provider?
- 8) Could the child welfare agency provide the services directly or should the service be contracted/purchased through a provider? Are you expected to provide these services yourself? Is that appropriate? Do you have the required competency to do so?
- 9) Can various methods of service delivery be used concurrently? How would this benefit the family?
- 10) How soon is the service available? (Research indicates that families benefit more from intensive services during the first several months of service and are more likely to alter their behavior as close to the initial point of referral as possible.)