

GUIDANCE FOR COMPLETING THE CAREGIVER SECTION OF THE CANS (6-21)

Identifying the appropriate adults to include in the Caregiver section of the CANS is extremely important as it can affect the amount of care coordination and home-based services the child is eligible for, in addition to being critical to developing a suitable care plan for the child and family.

- ✦ For children who live at home, any parents or parent substitutes with a significant role in the child's life are considered caregivers that need to be rated in the CANS. In addition to the biological parent the child lives with, examples of parent substitutes or other "caregivers" may include a biological parent who does not live with the child but shares custody, a step-parent who does live with the child, or a grandparent who has custody of the child.
- ✦ If children are in the legal custody of their parent(s), but are temporarily living elsewhere (hospital, detention center, nursing home) then these children's CANS would include the parent(s) in the Caregiver section.

Other children and families have unique circumstances where it may not be obvious which parents, and/or parent substitutes, if any, should be included in the CANS. This section provides guidance on Caregiver selection in a variety of circumstances that you may encounter.

- ✦ For older youth who are not in foster care status, and who are not living with any parents or parent substitutes, there may be no identified caregiver. This category may include youth who have run away or thrown out of home, and are living on their own, on the streets, or in a homeless or runaway youth shelter, and there is no suitable adult involved in the youth's life. In this instance the Caregiver section of the CANS will NOT be completed.
- ✦ For children in foster care, consider the child's current residence and the child's permanency goal to help decide which parent or parent substitute needs to be included in the Caregiver Section.

Rate any parent and/or parent substitutes with a role in the child's life. Include these significant adults who may or may not live with the child.

IF CHILD IS IN FOSTER CARE				
CHILD'S RESIDENCE	PERMANENCY GOAL			
	Reunification	Live with Relative	Adoption	Another Planned Living Arrangement (APLA)
Foster Home	Both Parent(s) and Foster Parent(s)	Relative(s) and Foster Parent(s)	Pre-adoptive parent(s) and /or foster parent(s)	Foster Parent(s) and, if still involved in child's care, the Parent(s)
Congregate Care	Parent(s)	Relative(s)	Pre-adoptive Parent or No Caregiver	No Caregiver
Living Independently	Parent(s)	Relative(s)	Pre-adoptive Parent or No Caregiver	No Caregiver

Rate each caregiver listed on the inside boxes, according to the child's **current residency AND** the **permanency goal**.

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