**Focus of Family Functioning Assessment**  
**(FFA-Investigation, FFA-Ongoing, and Progress Update)**

**Purpose:** The essential mission of the department is to identify and protect children who need safety management and to support the enhancement of caregiver protective capacities of the caregiver(s) responsible (treatment/change). The role of the Investigator or Case Manager is to evaluate and describe in the FFA how the household functions, including the development of an understanding as to who provides any care, parenting, quality time, and/or discipline for the children. The FFA serves the purpose of identifying the danger threats that children in the household are exposed to, how the children are vulnerable to those threats, and whether the parent/legal guardian and other significant caregiver(s) in the household have sufficient protective capacities to manage the danger threats.

**Focus:** The FFA will always include the parent/legal guardian of the alleged child victim who resides in the household where the child was maltreated in order to fully assess their caregiver protective capacities.

**Definitions:**
- **Household** - a common residence shared by two or more individuals whether related or not.
- **Household Member** - any person who resides in a household, including the caregiver and other family members residing in the home, or visitors expected to stay an indefinite length of time, or college students expected to return to the home.
- **Significant Caregiver Responsibility** - means that the specific adult household members have taken on responsibility for major caregiving responsibilities, have taken on pervasive day-to-day care and responsibility for protection the child, or the other household member/paramour residing in or frequenting the home who has become a parent figure.

**What if?**
- More than one family lives in the home?
- What if the parents are divorced?
- What if the child is only there on weekends?
- What if someone moves out or in during the investigation or during ongoing case management?

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