

Questions and Considerations for TERM Evaluations of a Parent

See TERM Handbook sections on “Required Format and Elements of a CWS Psychological Evaluation” posted on Optum TERM Website www.optumsandiego.com/

MENTAL DISABILITY EVALUATION OF PARENT (FC 7827)

Does this parent have a mental disability, as defined in Family Code Section 7827? Mental disability is defined as a “mental incapacity or disorder that renders the parent unable to care for and control the child adequately”

Evaluation MUST answer questions a. and b. to meet Family Code Section 7827 criteria:

- a. If the parent does have a mental disability, does the disability render the parent incapable of utilizing reunification services?
- b. If the parent is capable of utilizing reunification services, what is the parent’s prognosis for ability to benefit from services and begin to safely parent this child within twelve months?

PLEASE NOTE: legal timeline for b. above is six (6) months (not twelve months) if child is under 3 years of age. **CHECK IN CLIENT/CASE INFORMATION TO DETERMINE IF CASE INCLUDES A CHILD UNDER 3 YEARS OF AGE.** For parents with children under 3, the statutory time limit for reunification services is 6 months. However, services can be extended up to 6 additional months if the parent makes substantive progress in court-ordered treatment and services prior to the review hearing.

Evaluation narrative MUST address the following components:

Cognitive/Intellectual Functioning: What is the parent’s cognitive/intellectual functioning? Do these concerns render the parent incapable of utilizing reunification services? To what extent do these concerns affect the parent’s prognosis to benefit from services within the legal timelines?

Emotional/Psychological Functioning including Personality/Characterological Traits: Are diagnostic criteria met for any clinical disorders as described under DSM-IV-TR Axis I? Are criteria met for a personality disorder or mental retardation (DSM-IV-TR Axis II diagnoses) or are there are significant characterological traits?

Defensiveness/Level of Insight: How defensive is the parent regarding admission of the protective issues and/or mental health concerns? What level of insight does parent appear to have, based on this assessment, regarding the protective issue and/or mental health concerns?

Based on the assessment of all of the above factors, please answer Family Code Section 7827 criteria a. and b. above.

Treatment: What are the treatment recommendations, **if any**, that could promote this parent’s ability to safely parent **within the legal timelines**? Are there specific cultural/linguistic considerations regarding intervention choice or approach?