

UP-FRONT ASSESSMENT (UFA)
Info Sheet for Adult Parents and/or Adult Caretakers

It is the goal of the Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS) to obtain the most objective information on the strengths and needs of the families we serve. Thus, the Department has engaged the Family Preservation (FP) Agencies to conduct Up-Front Assessments on adult parents and/or adults with caretaker responsibilities. The FP Agencies utilize the Behavioral Severity Assessment Program (BSAP), a standardized assessment tool used by other County Departments and State agencies. The assessment focuses specifically on caretaker capacity. The assessment is voluntary on the part of caretakers and is free of charge. We strongly encourage identified parents and caretakers to participate in order to ensure that the DCFS social work staff has the most objective information on the family as possible. The assessments provide valuable input that may help social work staff make better decisions on behalf of the families, including the appropriateness of DCFS services or other services. Assessments may also provide the social worker with information to indicate that DCFS does not need to open a case.

Up-Front Assessments:

- are conducted on adult parents or adults with caretaker responsibilities (adults are defined as eighteen years old or older);
- are conducted by assessors who are clinicians or who are under the supervision of a clinician;
- are interviews, generally two hours in length;
- include questions about the adult parent or adult caretaker and their families, including questions related to mental health, substance use, and domestic violence;
- usually take place in the family home, unless other arrangements have been made; and
- results are shared with DCFS and, if needed, will be part of the Team Decision Making (TDM) meetings and other family-centered case planning meetings.