CORRELATES / RED FLAGS

Family traits identified as contributing to child abuse/neglect, but not causing child abuse/neglect

Correlates are utilized to further identify patterns of factors commonly found in child abuse/neglect cases. These correlates identify the following: Individual /Psychological, Familial (Intra), Community/Neighborhood Social Network, Social/Economic, Cultural Attitudes. These correlates are not specifically identified as behavior/traits connected with CA/N. However, they are associated with causal factors because they are additional family characteristics found in serious CA/N cases which contribute to level of risk. Correlates further intensify the possibility of child abuse/neglect because they are found in combination with CA/N.

Correlates can be used to affirm or support indications drawn from examination of the Risk Assessment Matrix.

1.   Identify family concerns contained within the correlates.

2.   Evaluate the number, severity, duration and reinforcement by environmental pressures.

3.   Use these identified correlates to determine the overall level of risk.

Correlates for family concerns receive added weight because they reinforce Cluster Elements, contributing to the overall level of risk of future CA/N. Correlates also receive added attention because they too should be addressed during case planning and service provision. Because correlates interact with causal factors, reduction of level of risk of CA/N is dependent upon identification of this interaction and selection of appropriate activities that will address this interaction. When behavior/traits connected with CA/N and associated correlates are addressed, the level of risk will be reduced.