



Social Work Assessment

This is a sample social services assessment form that was developed by the Center for Victims of Torture. Note that this is a general outline: it is not necessary to ask all questions to each client.

Explain

- Agency services and your role as a social worker
- Confidentiality policy, including interpreters
- Reason/purpose for assessment

Immediate Concerns

- What are your most immediate needs and concerns?
- Do you feel safe?

Basic Needs

Living Situation

- What is your current living situation?
- If you are living with others, how well do you know them?
- How much contact do you have with them?
- Are you comfortable with them?
- Do you trust them?
- Is your housing stable?
- Do you feel safe in this housing situation? In your neighborhood?

Food

- Do you have access to enough food?
- How often do you eat?
- Are you able to eat when you are hungry?
- Do you have access to culturally-appropriate food? Food you like?

Clothing

Do you have enough appropriate clothing for the weather?



Financial

If you're not working, how do you meet your financial needs?

Transportation

- How do you get to the places you need to go?
- Do you know how to use public transportation? Are you comfortable using public transportation?

Family

- Who comprises your family?
- Where are they currently living?
- What type of contact do you have with them?
- Are they safe?
- How would you describe your relationship with your family members?
- What has the impact of your separation been on your family relationships?

Life Back Home

- What part of the country are you from?
- Was it rural or urban?
- How did you spend your free time back home?
- What did you do for relaxation and fun?

Immigration

- When did you enter the U.S.?
- Where did you enter the U.S.?
- What is your immigration status?
- How were you able to make it out of your country?
- Are you applying for asylum or do you intend to apply for asylum?
 - If so, do you have a lawyer?
 - Have you had an asylum interview or hearing?
- Do you have a valid visa?
- Do you have valid identity documents?





Education

- What education did you receive in your home country?
- Do you have records of your credentials/diplomas/certificates with you in the U.S.? If not, can you get them?
- Are you currently attending any classes or training programs?
- Do you have educational goals for the future? Please tell me about them.

Language

- What languages do you speak? Are you fluent? Literate?
- How comfortable are you with your English-language ability?
- Would you like to improve your English skills?

Employment

- Did you work in your home country?
- What kind of work did you do?
- Do you have a valid work permit?
- Are you currently working?
- What kind of work are you doing?
- How does this compare to the work you were doing in your country?
- Do you enjoy this job?
- Do you earn enough money to meet your needs?
- Do you have occupational goals for the future?

Health Care

- Have you received medical care since arriving in the U.S.?
- Do you have a primary health care provider?
- Medical insurance?
- Do you have medical needs that need to be addressed?

Coping Skills

- What has helped you get through difficult situations in the past?
- What strategies would you use in your home country to solve a problem?
- What strategies have you used here?
- What is currently working well for you?





- What helps you maintain hope?
- What motivates you?
- Do you have religious beliefs/faith tradition? Please tell me about them.
- Are these beliefs a source of strength for you?
- Do you have hobbies or leisure activities that you participate in or would like to?

Social Support

- What was your social network like back home? Who did you get support from?
- Who is in your social network here?
- Do you have friends from your own country? Did you know them back home?
- Do you have friends you've met since arriving in the US?
- How often do you connect with your social network?
- How would you describe your ability to trust others?
- What is a typical day like for you?
- Are you working with any other agencies within the community?
- Are you connected with any faith or religious communities or religious leaders?

Treatment Planning

- What does healing look like for you?
- What are your hopes for the future? – short, medium, long-term?
- What do you think might help your situation?
- What are your expectations of me, as your social worker? What do you hope my role will be in helping you?

Important to note:

- Client strengths that emerged during the assessment
- What limitations the client is facing – psychological, physical, language, legal/immigration, financial, etc.
- Client's most immediate needs and any referrals or assistance you can provide during first visit or soon after

