

**QUESTIONS EVERY JUDGE AND LAWYER SHOULD ASK
ABOUT INFANTS AND TODDLERS IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM**

PHYSICAL HEALTH

- Has the child received a comprehensive health assessment since entering foster care?
- Are the child's immunizations complete and up-to-date for his or her age?
- Has the child received a hearing and vision screen?
- Has the child been screened for lead exposure?
- Has the child received regular dental services?
- Has the child been screened for communicable diseases?
- Does the child have a "medical home" where he or she can receive coordinated, comprehensive, continuous health care?

DEVELOPMENTAL HEALTH

- Has the child received a developmental evaluation by a provider with experience in child development?
- Are the child and his or her family receiving the necessary early intervention services, e.g., speech therapy, occupational therapy, educational interventions, family support?

MENTAL HEALTH

- Has the child received a mental health screening, assessment, or evaluation?
- Is the child receiving necessary infant mental health services?

EDUCATIONAL/CHILDCARE SETTING

- Is the child enrolled in a high-quality early childhood program?
- Is the early childhood program knowledgeable about the needs of children in the child welfare system?

PLACEMENT

- Is the child placed with caregivers knowledgeable about the social and emotional needs of infants and toddlers in out-of-home placements, especially young children who have been abused, exposed to violence, or neglected?
- Do the caregivers have access to information and support related to the child's unique needs?
- Are the foster parents able to identify problem behaviors in the child and seek appropriate services?
- Are all efforts being made to keep the child in one consistent placement?