

## Elaine, Joseph and Tim Case Study

You will meet with Elaine, age 64, and Joseph, age 72, who became the legal guardians of their grandson, Tim, age 8 after his mother (their daughter) severely neglected him and her parental rights were terminated. They became his legal guardians 10 months ago. In this meeting, you want to gather as much information as you can about Tim's attachment history. What questions do you want to ask? Write in at least five questions under each of the following topic areas.

Elaine's and Joseph' contact with Tim since his birth

1. Tell me about your relationship with your daughter during her pregnancy with Tim.
2. How closely were you involved with Tim when he was an infant?
3. What role, if any, did you play in Tim's life when he was an infant? A toddler? Started school?
4. At any time, did you have full time care of Tim prior to his entering foster care? If so, tell me about the circumstances and time periods for your full time care with him?
5. To what extent were you involved in Tim's life when he entered foster care? After he entered foster care? Did you visit regularly with him when he entered care?

What Elaine and Joseph know about Tim's birth and early infancy

1. Tell me the details about Tim's birth: timing, prematurity, method of delivery. Were you present at Tim's birth?
2. Tell me about Tim's health when he was born. Were there any immediate health issues? Was there prenatal exposure to drugs or alcohol?
3. How long was Tim in the hospital before being discharged home? Who left the hospital with him?
4. What were his first three months like? His first six months? Who provided his primary care? Were both his mother and father involved in his care?
5. How stable were the living arrangement for Tim during infancy?

### What Elaine and Joseph know about Tim's early childhood experiences

1. Tell me about how Tim developed from infancy to toddlerhood. Did he develop normally?
2. What role did his mother and father play in Tim's life from infancy through early childhood?
3. Does Tim have siblings who were being raised with him? What were those relationships like?
4. Did Tim go to child care or preschool? How did he do in these settings? Did he make friends easily? What were his relationships like with the teachers and staff?
5. How were Tim's mother and father doing in terms of their parenting during this time period?

### How Elaine and Joseph experience their culture(s) and connect with their kinship network

1. Tell me your lives as part of a culture, community, or social groups?
2. What beliefs or values of the groups that you identify with influence your roles as care providers for Tim?
3. How do you define family? Who is in your family? Who else do you think of as family?
4. Who in your family shares in child rearing?
5. How was Tim connected to your extended family and what were those relationships like?

### How Tim came into foster care and his experiences in care

1. When did child protective services (CPS) first get involved in Tim's life, and what were the circumstances? How many reports to CPS were made over the course of his infancy and early childhood? Who made the reports?
2. How old was Tim when he entered foster care, and what were the circumstances that led to his removal? How did he react when initially separated from his parent(s)?
3. What is Tim's foster care history in terms of placements?
4. How involved were you with Tim after he entered foster care? If he was in other placements, did you visit with him, and if so, how often?

5. How would you describe Tim's relationship with you during this period?
6. How did Tim react to his experiences in foster care?

#### How Elaine and Joseph came to be Tim's guardians

1. How did the possibility of our being Tim's guardians come up?
2. What were the reactions of Tim's parent(s) to your becoming his guardian?
3. Has your relationship with Tim's parents changed over time; if so, how?
4. What was Tim's reactions to being placed with you?
5. Tell me more about being Tim's guardians: the strengths and the challenges.

#### Tim's current behaviors

1. Tell me more about Tim's everyday functioning.