

CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES
STANDARDS FOR EFFECTIVE PRACTICE

STANDARDS FOR INTAKE / ASSESSMENT / INVESTIGATION

2.14 ECOMAPS

Council on Accreditation Standards

The Council on Accreditation Standards G8.2 (Assessment Processes); and G8.4 (Service Planning) link to and support Standard 2.14 *Ecomaps*.

Administrative Code

The Ohio Administrative Code Rule 5101:2-34-33 (PCSA Requirements for Conducting Intra-Familial Child Abuse and Neglect Family Assessments) addresses Standard 2.14 *Ecomaps*.

I. Philosophy

Ecomaps are a visual representation of a family's connection to various systems in their environment and are useful in depicting the impact of these systems on the family.

A social work strengths perspective promotes matching the inherent strengths of individuals with the resources found within the environment. By recognizing these strengths and promoting beneficial connections, practitioners will help maximize the potential of families within their communities. In addition, this encourages perceiving the environment as a source of opportunities for families, rather than a collection of obstacles, and may reveal more potential supports or resources.

Ecomaps help to illustrate the nature of the different connections between the family and the environment. Connections may be stressful, tenuous/uncertain, or positive. These connections can drain family resources and/or energy, add resources or energy, or may have a neutral impact on the family.

Since the ecomap is developed jointly between the family and worker, it helps to build a relationship between the family and worker and can provide additional structure and focus to an interview. The process of developing an ecomap can give family members more clarity about their situation.

II. Outcomes

Using ecomaps, systems and resources that support child safety and permanency are identified.

Child safety and permanency are achieved through strengths-based planning.

III. Evaluation

FACSIS events, CPOE and the Federal Health and Human Services outcomes may be considered when evaluating this standard. In addition, the public CFSA may consider the following:

- the accuracy and completeness of the information collected during the assessment;
- the availability of community supports as identified by ecomaps;
- information on client access to community support services and usage of such services;
- information on the client satisfaction with community support services through a questionnaire;
- an analysis of the availability of support services in the community.

IV. Standards for Implementation

- 1) Content of Ecomaps should contain data on client's age, sex, family composition, key resources, and type of connection to various resources in the community.
- 2) Connections are depicted as:
 - a. stressful;
 - b. conflictual;
 - c. tenuous/uncertain;
 - d. positive; or
 - e. cut off.
- 3) Ecomaps should show connections to important "systems", such as :
 - a. health services;
 - b. mental Health services;
 - c. MR/DD services;
 - d. schools;
 - e. housing;
 - f. public assistance and Medicaid;
 - g. alcohol & drug services;
 - h. domestic violence services;
 - i. criminal justice system;
 - j. community resources;
 - i. employment,
 - ii. churches,
 - iii. recreational groups,
 - iv. unions,
 - v. service organizations.
 - k. informal resources
 - i. immediate or extended family;
 - ii. friends;
 - iii. neighbors; and
 - iv. community groups.
- 4) To be most useful, ecomaps should be used when:
 - a. custody is terminated;
 - b. a decision making tool is needed to help objectify the situation;
 - c. a worker is trying to determine what interventions might be appropriate (including when a child's safety is in question);
 - d. determining what elements of the environment are adding to or draining on the family's resources; and
 - e. sharing information with other professionals involved with the case (i.e., Team Decision Making meetings, Case Conferences, SARs, etc.).
- 5) In general, Ecomaps should be:
 - a. clear;
 - b. easy to read;
 - c. complete
 - i. listing all household members,
 - ii. identifying all strengths and resources.

V. Financial Implications

Costs associated with Standard 2.14, *Ecomaps* may represent additional costs in terms of interviewing the client(s) and documenting information in ecomap format. This process should not exceed two hours in length. The estimated agency cost for investigation activities is \$98.65/hour. $\$98.65 \times 2 \text{ hour} = \197.30