

THE ECOMAP (CD-14H) INSTRUCTIONS

The *(CD-14H) Ecomap* is an **optional** one page, stand alone tool to be completed with the family within the first 30 days of the case opening.

Purpose:

The ecomap is completed to map the family system and its relationships with individuals and systems outside the family. Family systems may include recreation; faith/cultural; social/community; court system, housing; healthcare; employment; school/education; extended family; friends or other sources for family support not named. The ecomap will include important nurturing or conflictual connections between the family and environment. It also demonstrates the flow of resources, as well as resources the family needs that are conflictual or non-existent.

Recognizing the family's sources of strength and support are crucial. Not only is it empowering for the family, but these areas of strength will be utilized and built upon to support change in the family, when change is needed. The Ecomap will assist the worker to thoroughly explore the family's unique personal characteristics including aspects of the person's racial, ethnic, and cultural background. The worker may also use information concerning conflictual relationships to act in the role of advocate and mediator to assist the family in better understanding and utilizing systems outside the family.

Careful attention should be given to assessing the family's financial needs and resources. This is particularly true when the reported concern(s) suggests that the child's basic needs are not being met. Although employment and day care needs can be assessed at any time, completing the ecomap with the family may naturally lead to a discussion about employment. The worker should explore the need for employment, financial assistance and day care if the family is experiencing unemployment, under-employment and/or receiving TANF and/or food stamps. Since public assistance is temporary, it is important to explore with the family a plan for long term self-sufficiency.

Number of Copies and Distribution:

The number of copies and distribution will depend on the circumstances in which the tool is used.

Instructions for Retention:

The Ecomap is to be retained in the assessment and services section of the case record.

Memorandum History: