

Week 8 Investigations Training Pre- and Post- Test

1. A Specialist is reviewing an allegation supported by one witness, while two independent records contradict key parts of that account. How should the Specialist decide between a True and an Unsubstantiated determination?
 - A. Accept the witness's account because any supporting information requires a True determination.
 - B. Count the sources supporting each side and select the position supported by more people.
 - C. Evaluate the credibility, relevance, corroboration, and totality of the information to determine whether the allegation is more likely than not supported.
 - D. Enter an Inactive determination because the information is inconsistent.

Correct Answer: C

2. An allegation is determined True, and the Specialist believes a statutory exemption from Central Registry placement may apply. What is the most appropriate next step?
 - A. Change the determination to Unsubstantiated because an exemption means the conduct was not serious.
 - B. Document the statutory basis and supporting rationale, obtain required supervisory review, and separately complete any vulnerable-population risk determination.
 - C. Skip the vulnerable-population risk process because the exemption resolves all registry questions.
 - D. Recommend the exemption based only on the offender's promise that the conduct will not recur.

Correct Answer: B

3. A Specialist cannot locate the alleged offender, and the allegation cannot be resolved without interviewing that person. Which response best supports an Inactive determination?
 - A. Document the completed location efforts and explain why the missing interview prevents a True or Unsubstantiated determination.
 - B. Enter an Unsubstantiated determination because no interview means there is insufficient evidence.
 - C. Enter a True determination because the alleged offender's absence suggests responsibility.
 - D. Leave the investigation open indefinitely without documenting a determination rationale.

Correct Answer: A

4. During staffing, a Specialist reports that an allegation is Unsubstantiated but identifies an unresolved, immediate supervision concern supported by current observations. What should the team do?
- A. Close the case because an Unsubstantiated determination eliminates all safety concerns.
 - B. Change the allegation to True so safety-related action can be considered.
 - C. Discuss only the determination because staffing should not address strengths, supports, or services.
 - D. Separate the maltreatment determination from the current safety analysis and plan appropriate reassessment, supports, or case action.

Correct Answer: D

5. After protective custody is taken, OCC asks for information needed to prepare a petition. Which response best reflects the Specialist's role?
- A. Issue the emergency order and tell OCC which legal conclusion to use.
 - B. Collect, verify, organize, and swear to the investigative facts while OCC uses those facts to prepare and file the legal petition.
 - C. Draft the petition's legal arguments and ask OCC to gather the supporting evidence.
 - D. Provide only personal opinions because OCC is responsible for establishing the facts.

Correct Answer: B

6. A draft affidavit states, "The home was chaotic, and the caregiver was irresponsible." Which revision best strengthens the probable-cause support?
- A. The caregiver created an obviously dangerous environment that required immediate removal.
 - B. The Specialist believed the caregiver did not care about the child's well-being.
 - C. At 8:20 p.m., the Specialist observed broken glass across the kitchen floor while the barefoot toddler walked within two feet of it; the caregiver declined three requests to move the child.
 - D. The home was unsafe because several professionals agreed that it was unstable.

Correct Answer: C

7. Before protective custody was taken, the Specialist attempted an Immediate Safety Plan requiring a designated support person to supervise all contact between the

caregiver and child. The support person later withdrew, the caregiver refused an alternative arrangement, and the identified threat to safety remained. What information is most important to include in the affidavit?

- A. The facts supporting the threat to safety, the protective actions attempted, why those actions were no longer sufficient, and why the child could not remain safely in the home.
- B. A general statement that DCFS exhausted every available option before taking protective custody.
- C. A detailed description of every service the family might need after the child enters placement.
- D. The Specialist's opinion that the caregiver was unlikely to cooperate with DCFS in the future.

Correct Answer: A

8. An affidavit lists several concerning events but does not show when they occurred or how conditions escalated. What revision would most improve its legal readability and removal justification?

- A. Add stronger emotional language to communicate the urgency of the situation.
- B. Move the most serious allegation to the first sentence and omit the other events.
- C. State only that agency action could no longer be delayed.
- D. Organize the verified events chronologically and connect the developing safety threats, reassessments, attempted interventions, and reason action became necessary.

Correct Answer: D

9. During direct examination, an attorney asks about a date that the Specialist cannot recall precisely. What response best protects the Specialist's credibility?

- A. Estimate the date so the testimony remains confident.
- B. State, "I do not recall the exact date. May I refer to my documentation?" and answer after reviewing the record if permitted.
- C. Repeat the attorney's suggested date because it is probably correct.
- D. Avoid answering and begin describing a different event.

Correct Answer: B

10. During cross-examination, an attorney asks, "You removed the child simply because the caregiver was upset, correct?" Which response is most effective?

- A. Argue that the attorney is mischaracterizing the entire investigation.
- B. Provide a lengthy summary of every contact so no detail can be challenged.
- C. Remain composed, correct the premise, and concisely explain the specific facts, safety threats, attempted interventions, and information available when the decision was made.
- D. Agree with the statement to avoid appearing defensive.

Correct Answer: C

11. During testimony, an attorney asks whether the Specialist believes a caregiver intentionally lied about how a child was injured. The caregiver's explanation was inconsistent with other information, but the investigation did not establish the caregiver's intent. How should the Specialist respond?

- A. Explain that the Specialist cannot determine the caregiver's intent, then describe the specific inconsistencies and how they affected the investigation and safety assessment.
- B. Agree that the caregiver lied because conflicting statements generally indicate intentional dishonesty.
- C. Avoid discussing the inconsistencies because the Specialist cannot explain why the caregiver's account changed.
- D. State that determining whether the caregiver lied is OCC's responsibility and decline to answer any additional questions about the account.

Correct Answer: A

12. Before testifying about a removal decision, the Specialist finds that the case notes are accurate but scattered across several entries. What is the best preparation strategy?

- A. Memorize a script and deliver it exactly, regardless of the questions asked.
- B. Rely on general impressions because reviewing records may make the testimony sound rehearsed.
- C. Ask OCC to answer questions about the Specialist's investigative reasoning.
- D. Review the affidavit, chronology, documentation, policy basis, and key decision points so responses remain accurate, focused, and responsive.

Correct Answer: D

13. During an MDT meeting, law enforcement describes possible criminal conduct while DCFS focuses on immediate child safety. How should the Specialist help the team develop a shared understanding?

- A. Require every partner to use the same agency terminology before the discussion continues.
- B. Describe observable caregiver behavior and child impact, clarify each agency's role, and identify coordinated next steps without requiring identical conclusions.
- C. Delay all safety decisions until the criminal investigation is completed.
- D. Limit the meeting to information already known by every agency.

Correct Answer: B

14. Before a forensic interview, the Specialist learns that the child uses limited verbal language and may need accommodations. What action best supports the interview and subsequent safety decisions?

- A. Interview the child first so the Specialist can give the forensic interviewer a complete account.
- B. Wait until after the interview to mention the communication needs so the process remains neutral.
- C. Share the allegations, safety context, developmental information, and accommodation needs during the pre-interview phase, then observe and participate in the post-interview debrief.
- D. Provide only the alleged offender's name because other information could influence the interviewer.

Correct Answer: C

15. A medical provider sends new information to one MDT member, but other partners are proceeding with an outdated understanding of the case. What should the Specialist do?

- A. Confirm the information, share it promptly through appropriate channels, clarify how it affects safety and case actions, and document the coordination.
- B. Assume the MDT member who received the information will notify everyone else.
- C. Wait until the next scheduled meeting to avoid changing the current plan.
- D. Send the entire case record to every partner without considering professional roles or confidentiality.

Correct Answer: A

16. An MDT partner requests the Specialist's complete investigative narrative before the agencies coordinate their next actions. The narrative contains information relevant to the partner's role as well as confidential details unrelated to that role. The partner believes DCFS's delay in sharing information is interfering with the case. What is the most appropriate response?

- A. Send the complete narrative with a reminder that the partner is responsible for protecting confidential information.
- B. Decline to provide written information but summarize the entire investigation from memory during a telephone call.
- C. Wait until the next scheduled MDT meeting so every partner receives the information at the same time.
- D. Clarify what information the partner needs, determine what may appropriately be shared, promptly provide the relevant information, explain any disclosure limitations, and establish and document the coordinated next steps.

Correct Answer: D

17. At 8:15 a.m., a Specialist has a new Priority I referral, overdue documentation, caregiver voicemails, a scheduled collateral contact, and a court deadline later in the week. What is the best initial approach?

- A. Complete the oldest documentation first because unfinished work always has priority.
- B. Assess urgency and required timeframes, initiate the Priority I response, communicate about tasks that must be rescheduled, and use supervision to plan the remaining work.
- C. Return the caregiver calls first because they were received before the new referral.
- D. Attempt to complete every task independently before informing the supervisor that the workload is unmanageable.

Correct Answer: B

18. New information creates a possible safety threat, but several facts remain unknown, and waiting for certainty could delay necessary action. What should the Specialist do?

- A. Make the most serious conclusion immediately without seeking additional information.
- B. Postpone all action until every source provides a consistent account.
- C. Identify what is known, what is missing, and what cannot wait; consult as needed, take proportionate safety action, and continue gathering information.
- D. Transfer the decision to another professional so the Specialist is not responsible for acting under uncertainty.

Correct Answer: C

19. A Specialist receives feedback that an interview included several leading questions. Which response best supports professional growth?

- A. Review the interview, identify where the questions became leading, seek coaching, practice neutral alternatives, and apply the learning during future interviews.
- B. Defend the interview because the necessary information was ultimately obtained.
- C. Avoid requesting feedback on future interviews.
- D. Use a fixed script for every interview so professional judgment is no longer required.

Correct Answer: A

20. Shortly before finalizing an investigation, the Specialist receives a hospital record containing information about the timing of an injury that conflicts with the caregiver's account and an earlier collateral statement. The new information could affect both the explanation for the injury and the current safety analysis. What should the Specialist do?

- A. Give the hospital record controlling weight and immediately change the determination without further inquiry.
- B. Continue with the planned determination because information received late should not outweigh interviews already completed.
- C. note the discrepancy in the closing summary but leave any additional follow-up to ongoing services.
- D. Evaluate the record's relevance and credibility, seek clarification from the appropriate medical source and involved individuals, reassess safety, consult the supervisor as needed, and document how the discrepancy affects the final decision.

Correct Answer: D