

HOTLINE

Tip Sheet Regarding Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Expression (SOGIE)

It is important to have a SOGIE informed lens when receiving a call just like you have a trauma informed lens. If the caller tells you the child/youth's SOGIE, these are some questions to ask:



- How do you know this child's SOGIE?
- Do you believe this child is being harmed because of their SOGIE?
- Does this child have anyone they feel safe with?



IMPORTANT TO KNOW

There are also situations where a parent/caregiver is being supportive of their child's SOGIE, and a third party observes this and reports that the parent/caregiver is being abusive by affirming the child's SOGIE. When assessing for risk/harm/abuse it is essential to understand that affirming or supporting a child's SOGIE is not abuse nor neglect.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

REFER TO ACL 19-92

<https://www.cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/Additional-Resources/Letters-and-Notices/ACLs/2019/19-92.pdf>

INFORMATION

STATEMENTS/QUESTIONS FOR THE CHILD

LGBTQ+ and gender expansive (GE) children are often treated differently than their siblings and other children. LGBTQ+ and Gender Expansive (GE) children may not feel comfortable talking about their SOGIE as they don't know if you will be affirming.

Are all the children in the home treated the same or is this child being singled out?

Is the child being punished or shamed?

Is the child being bullied by their peers or siblings?

Does the child's sex assigned at birth match their gender expression?

LGBTQ+ youth report higher rates of depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, risk of suicide, as well as alcohol and drug use.

Is the child showing severe anxiety, depression, withdrawal, or aggressive behavior toward themselves or others as a result of the parents' or caregivers' conduct?

LGBTQ+ and GE youth often run away to protect themselves.

Does this child run away and why?

Is this child allowed in their home? If not, why?

Children and youth are also often "kicked out" of their home because of their SOGIE.

Is the youth allowed to wear what they want in relation to their gender identity, if not, is it because they are experiencing bias, discrimination, or hostility in their placement?

Children placed in out of home care who are or perceived to be LGBTQ+ and GE are often mistreated by staff.

Parents may punish children and youth whose actual or perceived SOGIE is different than their parent's expectations.

Are there family conflicts because of the child's gender expression?

How is each parent responding to the child's SOGIE?

The child's SOGIE may create conflicts within the family.

Are there family conflicts about the child's sexual orientation, gender identity?

Families come from different histories, cultures and religions which construct their belief system. Some may have strong negative convictions about different sexual orientations, gender identities and/or expressions.

How does the family's religion or culture influence how they treat the child?

How does the community respond/support the child's SOGIE?

LGBTQ+ youth often avoid school because they are bullied.

Is the child not going to school because they are bullied or discriminated against by peers, teachers or school employees?