



## Guiding Questions for a Counselor, Therapist, Social Worker or Psychologist

Although all social workers for individuals with Developmental Disabilities have guidelines, they may vary from location or individual provider. Use the following questions to guide discussions with social workers that you are interested in in order to better prepare the autistic individual and their supporting team to choose a provider and work collaboratively with them to ensure long-term success.

**Agency:** \_\_\_\_\_

**County:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Hours:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Website:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Specific Contact/Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

| Questions   | Answers, Related Resources, Suggestions |
|---|---|
| 1. What is the intake process? What documents will be needed?   |   |
| 2. What insurance do you accept? Do you offer a sliding fee scale? Do you accept Medicaid? Do you accept private pay? |   |
| 3. Do you have a specific focus or area of specialty?   |   |

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|---|--|
| <p>4. What is your experience working with autistic clients?</p> <p>Do you have any autism specific training?</p>   |  |
| <p>5. What is your approach to treatment?</p> <p>What type of therapy do you use? For example: ABA, early intensive behavioral therapy, or discrete trial training?</p> |  |
| <p>6. Do you currently have a waiting list? If so, how long?</p>  |  |
| <p>7. Can we have a consultation prior to the first appointment?</p> <p>Would there be a fee to have a consultation?</p>  |  |

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| <p>8. Are you able to work with my child as he/she ages or are you limited to a specific age range?</p>  |  |
| <p>9. What is your approach to working with an autistic individual who is non-verbal?</p>  |  |
| <p>10. Are you willing/able to participate in team meetings with the other professionals working with my child?</p> <p>How do you share information with families?</p> |  |
| <p>11. Do you have a psychiatrist that works with you on a referral basis?</p>   |  |