



# Social Work Assessment Questions



# AGS Social Work Assessment Questions



## Questions for Social Work Assessment

Social work assessments require collection of a wide range of data about an individual's life and circumstances with a goal of helping them with a positive outcome.

This guide includes some of the basic questions that drill down into these details.

# Social Work Assessment Questions Overview



While each assessment and the questions asked will vary according to the client's situation and individual needs, we've categorized potential general questions to use with social work assessment tools.

These sample questions are based upon the five key categories of the System model, which covers the areas of:

- Situation
- Safety
- Survival/other needs
- Supports/strengths
- Short-term or crisis

# Open-Ended vs. Close-Ended Questions

When doing a social work evaluation, you want to gather as much information from the subject as possible.

How you phrase social work assessment questions is important, because if they're worded the right way, they invite a fuller answer than just "yes" or "no."

Question types:

- **Closed-ended:** Are you feeling better today?  
(client can give a yes/no answer)
- **Open-ended:** How are you feeling today?  
(invites client to elaborate more)



Use open-ended questions to invite more detailed responses.

# Situation Questions

What brought you here today?

When did this situation first begin?

How does your living situation make you feel?

Has this happened before?

Have you sought help for this issue in the past?

How frequently does this occur in your life?

Have you told others about this situation?



Questions to identify the situational elements that caused the client to seek help.

# Safety Questions



Questions to identify if the client is in a crisis/safety situation that requires immediate help.

Are you in immediate danger of physical harm?

Do you have any restraining orders in place?

How do you feel about your current level of safety?

Describe any injuries you've had as a result of this situation.

Where would you be if you hadn't come in today?

Where will you be going after you leave here today?

Do you have a safe place to stay?

# Survival/Other Needs Questions

Describe what you've eaten in the last three days.

Where are you living right now?

How have you managed to survive thus far?

What are your biggest concerns in the coming week?

What do you think you could do to improve your situation? How can I help?

Where will you be sleeping tonight?



Questions designed to identify if the client currently has basic living needs being met.

# Supports/Strengths Questions

What resources do you have that you can rely on?

What associations, organizations, or groups have been especially helpful to you in the past?

Describe your family and friends support system.

How did you overcome this problem in the past?

Describe the course of a day when this issue isn't occurring. What's different?

What is one positive step you can take away from this issue/situation?



Questions to find what supports the client has or if they've overcome this issue before.

# Short-Term or Crisis Questions

Are you in fear for your life at this moment?

What will happen tomorrow if you haven't yet resolved this today?

What happens to you if this issue isn't addressed this week?

How have you been feeling? Describe any recent health issues you've had.

When is the last time you've seen a doctor?

How do you feel about yourself right now?



Questions designed to uncover how immediate the need is for the client.

## Conclusion

These social work assessment questions are designed to get you started thinking about the scope of the questions you'll need for a social work client assessment.

You can find further information on social work assessments, as well as many other types of assessments, at [Airiodion.com](https://airiodion.com).

Check out our [Social Work Assessment & Planning Toolkit](#) for an assessment template for social workers with built-in analytics and task checklist that gives you a place for planning and managing your social work engagements



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