

Appendix S: UMSA Location Assessment Tool

This checklist is designed to identify strengths and gaps before activation, ensuring the site can safely support children during reunification operations.

Instructions: For each item select the rating that best reflects the site:

- **High (Good):** Fully meets safety and suitability requirements.
- **Moderate (Some Concerns):** Minor issues present, manageable with adjustments.
- **Low (Not Suitable):** Significant issues, not appropriate without major modifications.

Area Reviewed: _____ Date Reviewed: _____ Reviewer: _____

Assessment Item	High	Moderate	Low	Notes / Follow-up
Access & Security				
Entrances/exits can be controlled and monitored	☐	☐	☐	
Children can be contained and directly supervised	☐	☐	☐	
Area allows controlled access for authorized staff/volunteers (ensuring background clearance if applicable)	☐	☐	☐	
Adequate visibility for monitoring entrances/exits	☐	☐	☐	
Security plans are in place (staff, signage, key cards)	☐	☐	☐	
Space & Layout				
Space is adequate for expected number of children	☐	☐	☐	
Areas can be separated by age group	☐	☐	☐	
Space allows safe movement, activities, and rest/sleep areas	☐	☐	☐	
Layout is free of overcrowding risks	☐	☐	☐	
Safety Hazards				
Fire and smoke alarms are functional	☐	☐	☐	
Adequate egress in case of emergency	☐	☐	☐	
Windows are secure/protected	☐	☐	☐	
Electrical outlets are child-safe/covered	☐	☐	☐	
Area free of cords, blinds, or strangulation hazards	☐	☐	☐	
No open water hazards (buckets, basins, sinks)	☐	☐	☐	
Heaters, fans, radiators, and hot pipes are safe or covered	☐	☐	☐	
Equipment and furniture are safe, with rounded edges or padding where needed	☐	☐	☐	

Assessment Item	High	Moderate	Low	Notes / Follow-up
Hazardous materials (medications, cleaning supplies, sharps) are secured	☐	☐	☐	
Facilities & Infrastructure				
Bathrooms are nearby and escort routes available	☐	☐	☐	
Handwashing facilities available with soap and water	☐	☐	☐	
Adequate lighting and ventilation	☐	☐	☐	
Climate control is available (heating/cooling)	☐	☐	☐	
Backup power available	☐	☐	☐	
Potable water available	☐	☐	☐	
Child-Specific Environment				
Lighting is comfortable and non-harsh	☐	☐	☐	
Noise levels would be manageable and appropriate	☐	☐	☐	
Area is accessible and safe for children with mobility or special needs	☐	☐	☐	
Area provides accommodations for children with sensory, cognitive, or behavioral needs	☐	☐	☐	
Quiet corner or calm space available for children who become overwhelmed	☐	☐	☐	
Area allows setup of age-appropriate play materials and small items (toys, games, videos, educational materials) without choking hazards	☐	☐	☐	
Area allows storage and provision of nutritious, age-appropriate snacks (with safe preparation and serving)	☐	☐	☐	
Area allows placement of safe sleeping accommodations (foam mats, avoids co-sleeping)	☐	☐	☐	
Area allows infant safe sleep setup (on backs, firm surface, pillows/toys removed)	☐	☐	☐	