

CHILD WELFARE ASSESSMENT AND DECISION MAKING MODEL (CWADM)



LOUISIANA
CHILD IN NEED OF CARE BENCHBOOK
FOR JUVENILE JUDGES

SECTION

11

SUMMARY

Judges and all legal stakeholders should be familiar with the Child Welfare Assessment and Decision Making Model (CWADM). The CWADM is a framework that the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) uses to assess safety and risk and the needs and strengths of children and families throughout the life of a case. The CWADM ensures that DCFS and courts have the best possible information upon which to make decisions with and for families involved with DCFS. See the [Child Welfare Assessment and Decision Making Model \(CWADM\)](#) in the [Appendix](#), which provides a visual overview of how the model works in the various stages of a DCFS case. In the [Appendix](#), see the [Department of Children and Families \(DCFS\) Safety Assessment Tool](#) that is used by DCFS with the family to assess safety.

WHAT IS SAFETY

Assessing safety is a DCFS practice culture, with an informal assessment of safety occurring for every child at every point of contact through the life of a DCFS case (Child Protective Services, Family Services, Foster Care and Adoptions). The assessment helps DCFS determine whether a child is safe or unsafe. A formal safety assessment is required either when a threat of danger is identified, or at specific intervals during the life of a case.

Three variables are considered to determine whether a child is safe or unsafe: (1) threats of danger to the child; (2) the child's vulnerability to the identified threats of danger; and (3) the caretaker's protective capacities. The threat of danger considers whether the caretaker's behavior or family situation is likely to result in imminent harm to the child. The child's vulnerability looks at the extent to which a child can protect himself/herself from the identified threats of danger. The caretaker's protective capacities consider the way a caretaker thinks, feels, and/or acts, and whether those capacities can prevent or control the identified threats of danger. When the Safety Assessment is conducted during an emergent situation, it is possible that an assessment of parental protective capacities was not able to be completed.

Based on these three factors, DCFS makes the following considerations when assessing whether the child is safe or unsafe and the type of safety plan necessary if the child is determined to be unsafe.

(1) A CHILD IS CONSIDERED SAFE WHEN:

- There are no threats of danger; OR
- The child is not vulnerable to the identified threats of danger; OR
- The caretakers possess sufficient protective capacities to manage the identified threats of danger and keep the vulnerable child safe.

(2) A CHILD IS CONSIDERED UNSAFE WHEN:

- There are identified threats of danger; AND
- The child is vulnerable to the identified threats of danger; AND
- Caretakers do not possess sufficient protective capacities to manage the identified threats of danger to keep the vulnerable child safe.

OVERVIEW

A. 3 CORE SAFETY FACTORS

(1) THREATS OF DANGER TO THE CHILD:

- There is a threat of danger to the child if the caretaker's behavior (action or inaction) or family situation indicates imminent serious harm to a child.
- **Violent Behavior:**
 - Caretaker's behavior is violent, dangerous and/or impulsive, which indicates that child safety is of serious concern.
 - Caretaker's perception or behavior towards the child is extremely negative and unrealistic, resulting in serious emotional and/or physical harm to a child.
 - Caretaker has caused significant harm to a child or made a threat, which indicates child safety is of serious concern.
- **Parental Responsibilities and Decision Making:**
 - Caretaker is unable, unwilling, or does not meet a child's basic needs for necessary food, clothing, shelter, medical or mental health, and child safety is of serious concern.
 - Caretaker is unable, unwilling, or does not provide the necessary supervision, protection, or care, and child safety is of serious concern. This may be due to physical or mental health issues, substance abuse, domestic violence, cognitive or developmental deficits, or poor judgment.
 - Caretaker refuses access to a child, whereabouts cannot be determined, and/or there is reason to believe the family may flee, and circumstances indicate child safety is of serious concern.
- **Other Significant Safety Concerns:**
 - Sexual abuse or exploitation is suspected, and circumstances indicate that child safety is of serious concern.
 - Current circumstances, combined with a history of abuse/neglect (DCFS and/or law enforcement involvement), indicate that child safety is of serious concern.

(2) CHILD VULNERABILITY:

- The extent to which a child can protect himself/herself from identified threats of danger or risk of repeat maltreatment.
- Considers factors such as dependence on others to meet basic needs; physical, medical, behavioral, or mental conditions; ability or inability to communicate their needs; and previous exposure to trauma.

(3) CARETAKER PROTECTIVE CAPACITIES:

- Strengths in the way a caretaker thinks, feels, and/or acts that prevent or control threats of danger and guides case planning activities.
- If there is a child vulnerable to a specific threat of danger, DCFS must assess whether the caretaker has sufficient protective capacities to manage the identified threat(s), which includes:
 - History of protecting from harm and unsafe conditions.
 - Recognizes threats and has the ability to implement a plan to protect the child.
 - Demonstrates impulse control in order to protect and provide for the child's overall care.
 - Understands how, has the skills needed, and takes action to meet parenting responsibilities.
 - Sets aside own needs where the safety and well-being of the child are the caretaker's priority.
 - Demonstrates love, empathy, and tolerance of the child and is positively attached.
 - Understands child development and has realistic expectations of the child's capabilities, needs, and limitations.
 - Is able to meet own needs, including basic daily and emotional needs.
 - Has the ability to handle the everyday, unexpected stressors/crises, and has an accurate perception of reality.
 - Demonstrates the ability to obtain concrete supports, such as food, clothing, housing, social services, and transportation.
 - Caretaker can and will access family and/or friends who are ready, willing, and able to help the family.

B. SAFETY PLANS

If the child is unsafe, DCFS will determine which type of safety plan will most effectively mitigate the threat of danger to the child. Safety plans substitute for the parents'/caretakers' inadequate or absent protective capacities. A safety plan is a plan to assure a child's health and safety by imposing conditions for the child to safely remain in the home, or, after a child has been removed from the home, for the placement of the child with a suitable relative or other individual or, if necessary DCFS, and terms for contact between the child and his/her parents or other persons.¹

There are two main types of safety plans sought in the Child in Need of Care (CINC) process: In-Home and Out-of-Home. In-home safety planning includes DCFS In-Home Safety Plans (without a court order) and Instantner Safety Plan Orders (ISPO). Out-of-home safety plans include the Instantner Order for Removal and Provisional Custody to a Suitable Relative or Individual and Instantner Order for Removal and Provisional Custody to DCFS (i.e., foster care).

(1) IN-HOME SAFETY PLAN: DCFS IN-HOME SAFETY PLAN (DCFS POLICY)

- **Overview:**
 - A DCFS In-Home Safety plan is the least restrictive safety plan. It is a DCFS-initiated mechanism used to help parents manage safety without a court order. The DCFS Family Services unit handles these cases. A DCFS In-Home Safety Plan cannot restrict contact between the child and his/her parents or otherwise infringe upon parental rights. Unlike the ISPO, this type of safety plan can also be used with a legal or non-legal caretaker or guardian to manage the child's safety. A CINC Petition may or may not be filed when there is a DCFS In-Home Safety Plan; but only the child's parents would be parties to such an action, not a legal or non-legal caretaker or guardian.
- **Considerations:**
 - Do the caretakers/parents have a living situation that is calm, consistent, and stable enough where an in-home safety plan could be implemented (i.e., feasible)?
 - Are the caretakers willing to accept, cooperate and comply with an in-home safety plan?
 - Is there a suitable alternative caretaker or safety monitor who believes that a safety plan is needed and is able to place the child's safety and needs above their relationship with the parents? (The safety monitor requires a DCFS clearance per DCFS policy.)

(2) IN-HOME SAFETY PLAN: INSTANTNER SAFETY PLAN ORDER (ISPO)² (ARTICLES 619 AND 620)

- **Overview:**
 - The ISPO is an important option for keeping children in the home. This court-ordered safety plan is requested by DCFS to manage the safety of a child while custody remains with his/her parents. It is used when a threat of danger to a child is identified to which he/she is vulnerable, and his/her parents do not have sufficient protective capacities to manage the threat. This type of safety plan can restrict the parent's contact with the child or include the child living with the parent in an alternative location or other interventions as ordered by the court. For example, the child and the parent may reside with a relative or other individual (i.e., fictive kin). However, the law does not allow this type of safety plan to be used with anyone other than the parents of the child; it cannot be used with other legal or non-legal caretakers/guardians. A DCFS In-Home Safety Plan and/or a Protective Order (PO) may be a more appropriate remedy in some cases to manage safety and risk issues regarding the child and the caretaker.
- **Agreement and Safety Monitor:**
 - The ISPO orders the parents and safety monitor to comply with the terms and conditions of the safety plan as determined by or agreed upon by DCFS to protect the child's health and safety while remaining in the parent's custody. Safety monitors are individuals identified by DCFS to provide oversight of the safety plan to ensure the plan's provisions are followed and the safety threats to the child are controlled. A safety monitor may be a professional, paraprofessional, volunteer, or individual who is part of the family's network, such as extended family, church members, friends, etc. Per DCFS policy, the safety monitor must be approved by DCFS, and DCFS should have weekly contact with the safety monitor to ensure compliance with the safety plan. DCFS asks the parents and safety monitor to sign a safety plan form to indicate their agreement to its conditions.

¹ La. Ch. C. art. 603(27).

² La. Ch. C. art. 612(A)(2) requires that DCFS request a Temporary Restraining Order, Protective Order, or Instantner Safety Plan Order if: (1) There is an existing visitation or custody order involving the alleged perpetrator and the child; and, (2) DCFS determines that any such order would put the child's health and safety at risk.

- **Considerations:**

- Is there is a suitable alternative parent or safety monitor (as described above), and at least one parent not willing or able to cooperate with the DCFS initiated In-Home Safety Plan?
- Can an ISPO be implemented to keep the child in the custody of the parents (even though the child may reside with suitable alternative caretaker or safety monitor)?
- Could restricting the parents access to the child manage the child's safety without the need to remove the child from the custody of the parents (i.e., restricting access of the perpetrator to the child)?

(3) OUT OF HOME SAFETY PLAN: INSTANTER ORDER FOR REMOVAL AND PROVISIONAL CUSTODY TO SUITABLE RELATIVE OR INDIVIDUAL (ARTICLES 619-20)

- **Overview:**

- The court can issue an Instanter Order of Removal and Provisional Custody to a Suitable Relative or Individual if it determines that the child's welfare cannot be safeguarded without removing the child from the parents' custody. If custody is given to a suitable relative or individual, a safety plan setting forth conditions of contact with the parents or other third parties shall be made an order of the court. The court should also order that the provisional custodian adheres to the conditions of the safety plan.

- **Considerations:**

- If the DCFS initiated In-Home Safety Plan or ISPO is not possible, is a transfer of provisional custody of the child to a suitable relative or individual the most appropriate safety plan to safeguard the child?
- Can a home study and/or background check be conducted on the relative or individual?
- Is there a suitable relative or individual placement out of state? Does placement require an Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) approval?

(4) OUT OF HOME SAFETY PLAN: INSTANTER ORDER FOR REMOVAL AND PROVISIONAL CUSTODY TO DCFS (ARTICLES 619-20)

- **Overview:**

- The court can issue an Instanter Order of Emergency Removal and Provisional Custody to DCFS if it determines that the child's welfare cannot be safeguarded without removing the child from the parents' custody, and there are no suitable relatives or individuals to place the child with.

- **Considerations:**

- If a DCFS initiated In-Home Safety Plan, ISPO, or removal and transfer of provisional custody to a suitable relative or individual is not possible, is removal and placement in foster care the most appropriate and least restrictive safety plan for the child?

C. OTHER ALTERNATIVES

(1) TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER (TRO) AND PROTECTIVE ORDER (PO) (ARTICLES 617-8)

- **Overview:**

- A TRO (Article 617) and PO (Article 618) are alternative legal options that can be used with or without a DCFS In-Home Safety Plan and/or an Instanter Order. See [Temporary Restraining Order \(TRO\) and Protective Order \(PO\) Bench Book Section 2](#).

(2) INFORMAL ADJUSTMENT AGREEMENT (IAA) (ARTICLES 628-30)

- **Overview:**

- An IAA may be used whether the child is in DCFS custody or not. IAAs are routinely used in some parishes as an alternative to removal. See [Informal Adjustment Agreement \(IAA\) Benchbook Section 1](#) for more information.

(3) FAMILY IN NEED OF SERVICES (FINS) (ARTICLES 743 ET SEQ)

- **Overview:**

- Before filing a CINC Petition, the court or district attorney (DA) may refer the matter to an intake officer as a FINS Case (FINS). If appropriate, FINS may also be a viable alternative to keeping the youth out of foster care and providing services to the family.



APPENDIX

**Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services
Child Welfare Assessment and Decision Making Model**

**A model to identify abuse and neglect, along with the needs and strengths of children and families, so that the best decisions are made with and for families.
The Child Welfare Assessment and Decision Making Model is a hybrid approach to assessing risk and safety that informs decision-making.**

Safety - Safety is defined in terms of Safe or Unsafe:

A Child is SAFE when:

- There are no threats of danger, OR
- They are not vulnerable to threats of danger, OR
- The caretaker(s) possess sufficient protective capacity to manage any threat of danger.

A Child is UNSAFE when:

- There are identified threats of danger, AND
- They are vulnerable to a threat of danger, AND
- Caretakers do not possess sufficient protective capacities to manage any threat of danger.

Risk - Refers to the likelihood of child maltreatment in the future.

Three core principles considered when assessing risk and safety while informing decision-making

1. **Threat of Danger** - Caretaker's behavior or family situation indicates imminent serious harm to a child
2. **Child Vulnerability** – The extent that a child can protect themselves from identified threats of danger or risk of repeat maltreatment
3. **Caretaker Protective Capacities** – Strengths in the way a caretaker thinks, feels, and/or acts that prevents or controls threats of danger and guides case planning activities.

The Model

Assessment / Decision Making	Why	Tool	How	Which Cases	Who	When	Next Steps
Centralized Screening Intake –	To determine if report of alleged abuse/neglect meets legal criteria for investigation.	CI Screening	CI assesses information gathered from online reports or hotline calls, and determines the acceptance of a report for investigation.	All reports received by Centralized Intake	CI Staff	Upon receipt of a hotline call or online report.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * If accepted, Investigation case opened by local office. * If not accepted, local office makes required referrals (Refer to Law Enforcement, etc.)
CPS - Gather Information	To gather sufficient information to inform validity decisions, as well as the safety and risk of maltreatment.	CPS – Assessment of Family Functioning (AFF)	Consider DCFS history, worker observations, interviews/collaterals, and supporting documentation to inform 3 assessment areas: Extent and Circumstances of Maltreatment, Adult Functioning/Capacities, and Child Functioning/Vulnerabilities.	All CPS Cases	CPS Worker	Prior to completing the CPS Safety Assessment, and Initial Risk Assessment.	Continue gathering and adding information to the CPS – AFF that will inform decisions about child vulnerability, threats of danger, and caretaker protective capacities in the Safety and Risk Assessments.
CPS - Conduct Safety Assessment	To assess safety for all children in the case and document safety decisions.	Safety Assessment	Consider DCFS history, CPS - AFF, interviews, observations, collaterals, and supporting documentation to complete thorough Safety Assessment	All CPS cases	CPS Worker, approved by Supervisor	Approved by Supervisor within 15 calendar days from date of report; AND/OR any time a threat of danger is identified (approved in ACCESS within 5 days of assessment).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * For an Unsafe child, determine type of safety plan needed: In-Home, Court Ordered Safety Plan, or Foster Care. * If child is Safe, continue to gather information for validity and CPS -AFF. Assess risk of maltreatment.
For an Unsafe child, develop a safety plan	To manage threats of danger.	In-Home Safety Plan; Court Ordered Safety Plan; or Instantier Order for Foster Care	Develop formal plan to manage threats of danger, while making reasonable efforts to prevent entry into foster care. Safety Plans substitute for Caretaker Protective Capacities. Use Safety Assessment guide to determine type of Safety Plan needed.	Any time child determined to be Unsafe	Assigned CPS, FS, or FC Worker/ Supervisor	Immediately when a Safety Assessment identifies an Unsafe child.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Provide copy of Safety Plan to caretaker and Safety Monitor/Provider. * Staff for case transfer with FS/FC within 5 calendar days of implementing Safety Plan unless unsafe conditions have been resolved, or Manager approves delay in transfer to FS. * Assigned worker to monitor Safety Plan until case has been accepted and transferred to FS/FC.
CPS - Conduct Initial Risk Assessment (SDM)	To determine likelihood of the family coming to the attention of DCFS again if DCFS does not intervene/provide services.	SDM Initial Risk Assessment	* Use information gathered from CPS AFF, Safety Assessment, DCFS history, worker observations, interviews, collaterals, and supporting documentation. * Use Risk Level to guide types/frequency of contact in on-going cases;	All CPS cases	Assigned CPS Worker/ Supervisor	Approved by Sup. prior to Validity approval OR Prior to FS/FC case transfer staffing if transfer occurs prior to Validity Determination.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use risk tool recommendations to determine if referral to FS needed. If Risk is High/Very High: 1.CPS Supervisor and Manager discuss and document rationale for closing CPS case without referral to FS; OR 2. Staff with FS within 5 calendar days of determination of high or very high risk

Complete Transfer to FS or FC	To share case information for the case transfer process to result in a smooth transition for case planning and service provision.	Form 6 – Transfer Staffing Form	Use information gathered from DCFS history, Safety and Risk Assessments, and the CPS AFF, to have a conversation about and document the family's strengths and needs.	All Referrals to FS and FC	CPS/FS/FC Worker/ Supervisor	Staffing to occur within 5 days of determination that transfer needed due to policy requirements, unsafe child or risk level.	FS or FC Worker reviews prior case records/information and begins work with the family. FS/FC considers information from the staffing and additional information gathered to conduct the FS and/or FC Assessment of Family Functioning and case plan.
FS – Conduct Safety Assessment	To assess safety of all children, and determine if case can be closed.	Safety Assessment	Use information from DCFS history, visitations, case plan updates, interviews, collaterals, worker observations and any supporting documentation	All FS cases	FS Worker/ Supervisor	Every 90 days and prior to closure staffing; AND/OR any time a threat of danger is identified	* For an Unsafe child, review and revise Safety Plan if needed. * Use the assessment of Caretaker Protective Capacities as guide for case planning and need for services. * If the Safety Assessment completed with the Risk Assessment to determine closure, close case if children safe.
FS - Convene FTM to develop case plan	To identify action/services needed to enhance protective capacities, ultimately achieving conditions for return and/or case closure	Assessment of Family Functioning (AFF) and FS Case Plan	Use DCFS History, Risk and Safety Assessments, the CPS AFF, Transfer Staffing info. , and FS involvement to further assess the family's needs. Develop case plan, if needed, that enhances protective capacities to manage safety and reduce risk of repeat maltreatment	All FS cases	FS Workers, Supervisor	Hold FTM meeting within 30 days of FS case acceptance and finalize the case plan within 45 days, if case plan needed. FTM to occur every 6 months thereafter.	Provide services to enhance caretaker protective capacities that will reduce safety and risk concerns. If a safety plan is in place, continue to monitor.
FS - Conduct In-Home Risk Reassessment	To determine if risk for repeat maltreatment has reduced.	SDM In-Home Risk-Reassessment; for children in homes of origin; OR Consult SDM for use of OOH Reunification Reass. for children	Use, DCFS history, worker observations, interviews, collaterals, visitations, and any supporting documentation to answer questions. .	All FC Cases	FS Worker, Supervisor	In-Home Risk Reassessment is completed at least every 90 days from FS case acceptance; Any time significant family circumstances change that affect risk Within 30 days prior to court hearing	* If risk is low or moderate, conduct safety assessment, and staff for potential case closure; * If case remains open, update case plan to address protective capacities. (every 6 months)* * If child is not in home of origin, consider legal options to ensure child's safety, such as custody to a relative. * Staffing with supervisor using reassessment tool as a guide for discussion and decision making
FS- Establish Conditions for Return	To determine what behaviors, conditions, or circumstances are needed that would allow returning a child to their parent's physical care as soon as it is safe to do so, which may not result in DCFS closing case...	Documented within the FC – AFF Case Plan	Use on-going contacts/assessment, Safety and Risk Assessments. Discuss during Transfer Staffing. Use Threats of Danger and Diminished Protective Capacities to develop a clear statement of the Conditions for Return and include in case plan.	All FC cases with goal of Reunification	FC Worker/ Supervisor	Documented within initial and on-going FC case plans. Discussed during supervisory conferences to consider trial placements while continuing to provide services to address safety and risk concerns.	* During Supervision, discuss if there are sufficient protective capacities to manage threats of danger while the child is at home. If so, consider trial placement and/or requesting an earlier court date to achieve permanency; * Continue to provide services, assess safety and risk, and implement safety plan if needed.
FC - Conduct Safety assessment	To assess safety of all children in case; and/or if the FC conditions for return have been met. .	Safety Assessment	Use information from DCFS history, AFF case documentation, visitations, service providers, worker observations, Risk Assessment, Interviews, and collaterals.	All FC Cases	FC Worker/ Supervisor	Anytime a threat of danger is identified (non-custody children with the caretaker, trial placements, and foster care placements; AND/OR As part of the safety review completed within the OOH Reunification Reassessment, when prompted to review Safety.	* Determine if child is safe or unsafe. If unsafe, consult with Supervisor immediately to determine if Safety Plan is feasible or if a change in FC placement needed for a child in DCFS custody. * If Safety Assessment completed as part of the SDM Safety Review, proceed with recommendations of the Risk Reunification Tool and continue case planning to enhance protective capacities if recommended.
FC - Conduct OOH Reunification Reassessment	To determine likelihood of the family coming to the attention of DCFS again if the child returns home.	SDM OOH Reunification Reassessment	* Risk Assessment contains 3 key indicators that determine recommendation for reunification: Reunification Risk Reassessment; Visitation Plan Evaluation; and Reunification Safety Review; * Use information gathered during involvement with the family to inform the assessment. * A formal Safety Assessment is required if the SDM Assessment prompts the need to review safety.	FC cases with a goal of reunification	FC Worker/ Supervisor	An OOH Reunification Reassessment completed at least every 90 days from FC open date when goal is Reunification. OR Any time significant family circumstances change that affect risk. AND/OR Within 30 days prior to court hearing or when a child is being considered for a trial placement or immediate reunification. .	If Assessment recommends reunification or an alternate goal, staff with Supervisor to determine next steps. Continue to provide services to eliminate threats of danger and/or enhance caretaker protective capacities.
FC - Convene FTM to develop case plan	To identify action/services to enhance protective capacities, and achieving conditions for return and/or case closure	Assessment of Family Functioning (AFF) and FC Case Plan	Use DCFS History, Risk and Safety Assessments, CPS AFF, Transfer Staffing info. , and FC/SP involvement to assess the family's needs. Develop case plan that enhances protective capacities to manage safety and reduce risk of maltreatment	All FC cases	FC Workers, Supervisor	Hold FTM meeting within 30 days of FC open date and finalize the case plan within 45 days. FTM to occur every 6 months.	Provide services to enhance caretaker protective capacities that will reduce safety and risk concerns.

Department of Children and Family Services
SAFETY ASSESSMENT

PRIMARY CLIENT/CASE NAME:		DATE ASSESSMENT INITIATED:		CASE ID (ACESS/TIPS):	
CARETAKERS ASSESSED:		OTHER CARETAKERS ASSESSED:			
PROGRAM: <input type="checkbox"/> CPS INVESTIGATION <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY SERVICES <input type="checkbox"/> FOSTER CARE		REASON FOR ASSESSMENT: <input type="checkbox"/> THREAT OF DANGER IDENTIFIED (CRISIS) <input type="checkbox"/> PROGRAMMATIC REQUIREMENT			
CHILD(REN)'S NAME / Age /Sex					
CHILD VULNERABILITY – This refers to the extent that a child can protect himself/herself from identified threats of danger or risk of repeat maltreatment. (Consider factors such as dependence on others to meet basic needs; physical, medical, behavioral or mental condition; ability or inability to communicate their needs, and previous exposure to trauma)					
THREATS OF DANGER – Caretaker's behavior or family situation indicates imminent serious harm to a child				Is there a threat to child safety?	If threat exists, is <u>any</u> child vulnerable to this threat?
Violent Behavior	1. Caretaker's behavior is violent, dangerous and/or impulsive which indicates that child safety is of serious concern. <i>Describe the threat and how each child is or is not vulnerable to the threat.</i>			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	2. Caretaker's perception or behavior towards child is extremely negative and unrealistic resulting in serious emotional and/or physical harm to a child. <i>Describe the threat and how each child is or is not vulnerable to the threat.</i>			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	3. Caretaker has caused significant harm to a child or made a threat, which indicates child safety is of serious concern. <i>Describe the threat and how each child is or is not vulnerable to the threat.</i>			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Parental Responsibilities & Decision Making	4. Caretaker is unable, unwilling, or does not meet a child's basic needs for necessary food, clothing, shelter, medical, or mental health and child safety is of serious concern. <i>Describe the threat and how each child is or is not vulnerable to the threat.</i>			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	5. Caretaker is unable, unwilling, or does not provide necessary supervision, protection, or care and child safety is of serious concern. This may be due to physical or mental health issues, substance abuse, domestic violence, cognitive or developmental deficits, or poor judgment. <i>Describe the threat and how each child is or is not vulnerable to the threat.</i>			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	6. Caretaker refuses access to a child, whereabouts cannot be determined, and/or there is reason to believe family may flee and circumstances indicate child safety is of serious concern. <i>Describe the threat and how each child is or is not vulnerable to the threat.</i>			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Other Significant Safety Concerns	7. Sexual abuse or exploitation is suspected, and circumstances indicate that child safety is of serious concern. <i>Describe the threat and how each child is or is not vulnerable to the threat.</i>			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	8. Current circumstances combined with history of abuse/neglect (child welfare agency and/or law enforcement involvement) indicate that child safety is of serious concern. <i>Describe the threat and how each child is or is not vulnerable to the threat.</i>			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRIMARY CLIENT/CASE NAME:

FAMILY/FACILITY ID:

CARETAKER PROTECTIVE CAPACITIES. Strengths in the way a caretaker thinks, feels, and/or acts that prevents or controls threats of danger. COMPLETE ONLY IF THERE IS A VULNERABLE CHILD TO A SPECIFIC THREAT OF DANGER.

Do all caretakers possess the protective capacity?

1. History of protecting from harm and unsafe conditions	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Unable to Determine
2. Recognizes threats and has ability to implement plan to protect child(ren)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Unable to Determine
3. Demonstrates impulse control in order to protect and provide for child's overall care	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Unable to Determine
4. Understands, has the skills needed, and takes action to meet parenting responsibilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Unable to Determine
5. Sets aside own needs where the safety and well-being of child(ren) are the caretaker's priority	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Unable to Determine
6. Demonstrates love, empathy, and tolerance of child(ren), and is positively attached.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Unable to Determine
7. Understands child development and has realistic expectations of child's capabilities, needs, and limitations	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Unable to Determine
8. Is able to meet their <u>own</u> needs, including basic daily and emotional needs	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Unable to Determine
9. Has ability to handle every day, unexpected stressors/crises and has an accurate perception of reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Unable to Determine
10. Demonstrates ability to obtain concrete supports needed such as food, clothing, housing, social services, transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Unable to Determine
11. Caretaker can and will access family and/or friends who are ready, willing and able to help the family	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Unable to Determine

SAFETY DETERMINATION

Are there sufficient caretaker protective capacities to manage identified threats? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unable to Determine ☐ N/A

Describe:

Is any child Unsafe? ☐ Yes ☐ No (Check yes if there are any threats a child is vulnerable to, AND if caretaker protective capacities cannot manage the threats, or are unable to be determined due to an emergency safety situation.

SAFETY ANALYSIS IS COMPLETED IF ANY CHILD IS UNSAFE TO DETERMINE THE TYPE OF SAFETY PLAN NEEDED

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Is an In Home Safety Plan feasible? <input type="checkbox"/> Do the caretakers have a living situation that is calm/consistent/stable enough where an in-home safety plan and services can be implemented? <input type="checkbox"/> Are the caretakers willing to accept, be cooperative with, and comply with an in-home safety plan and services? <input type="checkbox"/> Is there a suitable safety monitor who believes that a safety plan is needed, and is able to place the child's safety and needs above their relationship with the caretaker(s)? <small>**Safety Monitors require a DCFS CW clearance per DCFS policy</small>
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Is a Court Ordered Safety Plan feasible? If there is a suitable alternative caretaker or safety monitor(as described above), BUT at least one of the caretakers is not willing or able to cooperate with an in-home safety plan, can a court ordered in-home safety plan be implemented?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	If an in-home safety plan or court ordered safety plan is not possible, is transfer of provisional custody or Foster Care the safety plan?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
If Safety Assessment is conducted on a foster care placement, did the Child Welfare Manager approve use of a safety plan as compared to changing the foster care placement?		

Safety Plan/Additional Comments:

Worker's Name

Supervisor's Name

Reviewing Worker's Signature

Date

Reviewing Supervisor's Signature

Date