

SAFETY DECISION MAKING

Intake through Case Closure



INFORMATION DOMAINS: Making good decisions about safety begins with gathering sufficient information using the following six standardized information domains throughout the life of a case:

- Nature and Extent of the Maltreatment
- Circumstances that Accompany the Maltreatment
- Adult Functioning
- Child Functioning
- General Parenting Practices
- Discipline and Behavior Management

SUFFICIENT INFORMATION is gathered and used during all phases of child welfare to determine:

- Are there threats of danger to a child's safety?
- Is the child vulnerable to those threats?
- Does the parent possess sufficient protective capacities to manage identified threats to child safety?

SAFE CHILD

RISK CLASSIFICATION SCORE

Determines priority for Family Support

If at the completion of the investigation process the child is determined to be safe, the family may be referred for voluntary Family Support services or other community resources for an array of prevention and diversion services for safe children.

UNSAFE CHILD

The child protective investigator develops a safety plan in collaboration with the family and the family's support network to maintain the child safely in the home or temporarily place the child out of the home.

Case management services provide:

- On-going safety plan monitoring and management.
- Development of a family assessment and case plan to improve parental protective capacities.
- Return of the child to the parent's care when an in-home safety plan is feasible and sustainable.
- Provision of care, safety, and protection of the child in an environment that fosters healthy social, emotional, intellectual, and physical development.
- Provision of another permanency option for the child who cannot be reunified.