Child Safety Framework

- Informs and guides child safety decisions throughout the life of a case
- Provides precise language and clear definitions
- Strengthens child safety assessment and planning
- Will guide appropriate placement decisions
Children are considered safe when there are no present danger or active safety threats, or the caregiver’s protective capacities control or manage the existing threats.
Strengthening Child Safety Practice

To determine if a child is safe, staff must:

• Gather Information
• Assess information gathered
• Analyze identified child safety threats
• Plan to reduce or eliminate child safety threats.

Child safety is DCYF’s first priority and must be assessed continuously throughout the life of a case.
Child Safety Framework Graphic

This graphic provides a high level overview of how professionals in all program area continually throughout the life of a case.

Gather
Assess
Analyze
Plan
Child Safety Framework

Throughout the Life of Every Case
The Child Safety Framework uses six areas of focus when gathering information.

1. Extent of maltreatment
2. Circumstances accompanying the maltreatment
3. Child functioning
4. Parenting disciplines
5. Parenting practices
6. Parent daily functions (outside of the role of parental unit)
Child Safety Framework

Gather | Assess | Analyze | Plan

Throughout the Life of Every Case
Assess

- Weigh all gathered information
- Assign significant of information
- Determine if safety threat exist
Safety Threat

Family behavior, conditions or circumstances that create present or immediate danger resulting in severe impacts on the child.
Present Danger

Present danger is immediate, significant, and clearly observable severe harm or threat of severe harm occurring in the present.
Present Danger

- Can occur at any time throughout the life of a case.
- Is happening now
- When identified must have protective action(s) taken immediately to protect the child’s safety.
- Must be assessed on a continual basis—never stop assessing for present danger during the case.
Active Safety Threat

Parenting behavior that is harmful and destructive to a child’s cognitive, social, emotional or physical development that is likely to occur in the immediate or near future that could result in one or more of the following outcomes:

- Serious or severe harm
- Injury requiring medical attention
- Life endangering illness
- Death
Active Safety Threat or Risk?

- Threats to a child’s safety that are not immediate, obvious, or occurring at the onset of CPS intervention
- Threats are identified and understood upon a full evaluation and understanding of individual and family conditions and functioning
- Without the safety intervention, one could reasonably judge the potential for severe harm.
Safety Threshold

In order to determine that a threat exists, the following five criteria must be met:

1. Potential severe impacts on the child
2. Occurring immediate or in the near future
3. Out of control
4. Vulnerable child
5. Observable and specific
Child Safety Framework

Gather  Assess  Analyze  Plan

Throughout the Life of Every Case
Analyze

• Evaluate the identified safety threat
• Understand how safety threat(s) are occurring and how they can be managed and controlled
• Breaks down the safety threat to gain greater understanding of how it is occurring
Analyze

**Threat**
- What?
- Who?
- When?
- Where?
- How?

**Plan**
- What?
- Who?
- When?
- Where?
- How?
Plan

All Children identified as unsafe will have a safety plan that controls and manages the identified safety threats.
Safety Plan

• Have an immediate effect, are accessible, and contains safety services and actions only.
• Will not be based on promissory commitment.
• Are developed with the family and are objective, clear, and understood by everyone.
• Control or managed active safety threats to the child.
• Can be in-home or out-of-home.
Tools

Updated- Coming Soon
• Safety Assessment and Safety Plan
• Family Assessment
• Case Plan
• Assessment of Progress

Eliminations of:
• Reunification Assessment
• Transition & Safety Plan
A new way of thinking about child safety

The Child Safety Framework consists of:

• Collecting information about the family to assess child safety.
• Identifying and understanding present and impending danger threats.
• Evaluating parent/caregiver protective capacities.
• Determining if a child is safe or unsafe.
• Taking necessary actions to protect an unsafe child.
Thank you!

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