

Safety Plan Analysis Guide

This Guide has been developed to assist in the analysis of information gathered about a family for the completion of a Safety Assessment. Analysis of information includes considering how the safety threats operate in the family. This Guide includes questions that provoke thought and bring forward information about how the safety threats operate in the family. Understanding how safety threats operate in a family's life is critical. Threats operate differently family to family and the analysis of the information gathered through the safety assessment should result in a clear determination of what type of plan will work best to keep the child safe.

Once a child is identified as *unsafe* with the identification of safety threats, a Safety Plan Analysis **must** be completed to determine whether an *In-Home Safety Plan* will control all of the identified safety threats. The analysis consists of following four criteria:

- ✓ There is a parent/caregiver or adult in the home.
- ✓ The home is calm enough to allow safety providers to function in the home.
- ✓ The adults in the home agree to cooperate with and allow an In-Home Safety Plan.
- ✓ Sufficient, appropriate, reliable resources are available and willing to provide safety services and tasks.

Important: All four criteria must be answered with a yes or no. If “No” is selected on any of the four questions, an in-home safety plan is not an option and out-of-home placement should be considered.

1. There is a parent/caregiver or adult in the home.

Analysis

- A home exists and can be expected to be occupied for as long as the safety plan is needed.
- Parent, caregiver/adult lives in the home full time.

2. The home is calm enough to allow safety providers to function in the home.

Analysis

- How long have conditions in the family posed a threat?
- How frequent or often does the family condition pose a safety threat?
- How predictable is the safety threat?
- Are there occasions when the safety threat is more likely to be an active influence in the home?
- Are there specific times during the day, evening, night, etc that might require increased attention due to the way that the safety threat is manifested?

3. The adults in the home agree to cooperate with and allow an In-Home Safety Plan.

Analysis

“Agree to cooperate” refers to the most basic level of agreement to allow a safety plan to be implemented in the home and to participate according to agreed assignments. Anger, irritation, frustration or impatience should not be confused with an unwillingness to cooperate.

- What is the adult’s response to the identification of the safety threat?
- Do the adults place blame for the incident on the child? Does the parent/caregiver scapegoat the child?
- Do the adults demonstrate the capacity to understand the plan? Do they understand what is being asked of them?
- Do the adults demonstrate the ability to follow the plan?
- If more than one adult lives in the home, is there dissension about cooperating with an in-home safety plan?
- If other safety plan participants are included in the plan, do the adults agree to cooperate with them?
- Do the adults appear to be “promising” to cooperate without any evident curiosity or questions about the plan?
- Does the information gathered for the safety assessment provide any indication that the adults are participating in activities that require cooperation?

4. Sufficient, appropriate, reliable resources are available and willing to provide safety services and tasks.

Analysis

These criteria acknowledge certain realities about the limited resources in some communities. If a community is deficient in resources, an in-home safety plan is unrealistic. If the answer is “No” to this question it must clear that safety threats cannot be managed.

- What resources are necessary to control and manage specific safety threats?
- How can in-home resource, supports, actions control the safety threats? How will the resource, support action work in the home?
- What amount of effort is needed from safety plan participants to adequately control and manage threats?
- How often during the week will the family need assistance and supervision in order to maintain safety? How many hours a day, a night? Are there certain times of day or night that additional support is needed? What is the frequency of needed support and assistance?
- Who is going to assist with monitoring of the safety plan?
 - Are they suitable and reliable?
 - Do they have the child’s safety as their priority?
 - Will they contact the department or law enforcement if the child is in danger?
 - Are they trustworthy, committed, aligned with CA, supportive, flexible, available?
- Can resources, supports, activities and tasks be implemented immediately and how long can they be maintained?