




STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES
1500 Jefferson Street, SE • P.O. Box 40975 • Olympia WA 98504-0975

POLICY MEMO
June 27, 2023

TO: Child Welfare Employees

FROM: Natalie Green, Assistant Secretary 

RE: Changes to [1120. Safety Assessment](#) policy

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

SUNSET REVIEW DATE: July 1, 2024

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to provide guidance to Child Welfare (CW) employees of the updated policy and procedure requirements to align with [House Bill 1227: Keeping Families Together Act](#), [KW](#), and [LCS](#) supreme court decisions.

This policy is under full review for further revisions, but the following changes will take effect July 1, 2023:

New Procedural Requirements

Caseworkers must:

- Complete a Safe Child Consultation to support decisions related to safety by following the Safe Child Consultation Guide.
- Apply the Child Safety Framework during the Safe Child Consultation to:
 - Determine if a child or youth is safe and if either:
 - A safety plan is needed
 - Removing a child from a parent or guardian is necessary to prevent *imminent physical harm* to the child or youth due to abuse or neglect.

Questions:

If you have any questions, please contact Jasmine Hodges, Child Safety Program Manager, at jasmine.hodges@dcyf.wa.gov or 206-889-9431.