

SAFETY ASSESSMENT Key Term Definitions

*FROM THE ODJFS CPS WORKER MANUAL AND CAPMIS FIELD GUIDE

CONTROL is the focus of the safety plan, in response to any child in immediate danger of serious harm, which serves to manage immediate safety threats and supplement protective capacities.

CREDIBLE INFORMATION is information worthy of belief. Credible information is used as a standard to help evaluate safety or risk.

DANGER is the likelihood of serious harm to a child precipitated by one or more currently active safety threats and arising from insufficient protective capacities.

PROTECTIVE CAPACITIES are family strengths or resources that reduce, control, or prevent threats of serious harm from arising or having an unsafe impact on a child.

SAFE CHILD is the safety response when there are no immediate threats of serious harm present or the protective capacities of the family can manage any identified threats to a child.

SAFETY PLAN is a specific and concrete strategy for controlling threats of serious harm to a child or supplementing protective capacities, which is implemented immediately when a family's protective capacities are not sufficient to manage immediate and serious threats of harm.

SAFETY THREAT is an act or condition that has the capacity to seriously harm any child.

SAFETY RESPONSE is the determination of whether a child is safe or whether a PCSA must implement a safety plan. The types of safety responses are safe, in-home safety plan, out-of-home safety plan, or legally authorized out-of-home placement.

SERIOUS HARM is the actual or threatened consequence of an active safety threat that may be significantly affected by a child's degree of vulnerability and includes one or more of the following:

- Is life threatening.
- Substantively retards the child's mental health or development.
- Produces substantial physical suffering, disfigurement, or disability, whether permanent or temporary.