Assessing Child Safety

Developed by: Child Protective Services Policy, ODJFS & Ohio Child Welfare Training Program

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SECTION I

What's In It For Me?

Slide 3

Ongoing Assessment of Safety

Assessing Child Safety

- ✓ Foundational knowledge✓ Practice opportunities
- ✓ Strategies for engagement

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SECTION II

Continuous
Assessment of
Safety Overview

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Safety Re-Assessment

✓ Family Assessment✓ Case Review✓ Ongoing Case Assessment Investigation Tool✓ Reunification Assessment



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SAFETY RE-ASSESMENT

- 1. A safety threat is not currently active.
- If a safety threat is not currently active, but had been active at any time since the last assessment of safety was completed:
- 3. If a safety threat is active now:

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Safety Re-Assessment

- Not previously knownChanges
- Deeper understanding
- Updated information

SAFETY RE-ASSESMENT

- A safety threat is not currently active.
 - a. Describe the new information obtained regarding protective capacities.
 - b. Describe new information obtained regarding child vulnerability.

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SAFETY RE-ASSESMENT

- If a safety threat is not currently active, but had been active at any time since the last assessment of safety was completed:
 - a. Describe the safety threat and then summarize the information that demonstrates safety threat resolution, sufficient safety threat reduction and/or adequate protective capacities necessary to protect the child(ren) from serious harm.

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SAFETY RE-ASSESMENT

- 3. If a safety threat is active now:
 - a. Describe the active safety threat(s), identify which children are affected, and which caregivers or other adults are involved. Describe any progress toward alleviating the safety threat(s).
 - b. Describe the present protective capacities of each caregiver and highlight significant changes that may have occurred since the last assessment of safety was completed.
- c. Describe the present vulnerability of each child and highlight significant changes that may have occurred since the last assessment of safety was completed.

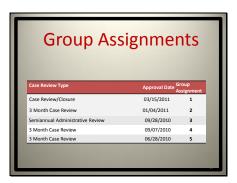
SECTION III

Safety Re-Assessment Application Activity

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SAFETY RE-ASSESMENT

- 1. A safety threat is not currently active.
- If a safety threat is not currently active, but had been active at any time since the last assessment of safety was completed:
- 3. If a safety threat is active now:



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2. If a safety threat is <u>not currently active, but had been active</u> at any time since the last assessment of safety was completed.

time since the last assessment of safety was completed.

Jade and Jacoby were in need of permanency. Both children had witnessed domestic violence between their mother and step-dad leading to a protection order against step-dad. The CPO was violated and step-dad was permitted back in the home. On August 01, 2010, both children were removed from their biological mother's home and placed together into loster care. On November to the control of the contro

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2. If a safety threat is <u>not currently active, but had been active</u> at any time since the last assessment of safety was completed.

Jade and Jacoby were in need of permanency. Both children had witnessed domestic violence between their mother and step-dad leading to a protection order against step-dad. The CPO was violated and step-dad was permitted back in the home. On August 01, 2010, both children were removed from their biological mother's home and placed together into foster care. On November 10, 2009, Jade was transported to her paternal Grandmother (PGM), who resides in a different county, as a pre-placement until a court hearing could be set. PGM successfully completed a home study in her county and is caring for Jade at this time. Jacoby has been placed with biological father until Mason County Children Services can complete the home study process. Both children are in safe nurturing environments with family who are willing to provide for their need of food, shelter, education, supervision, medical, psychological and social needs.

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3. A safety threat is active now.

Describe the active safety threat(s), identify which children are affected, and which caregivers or other adults are involved.
 Describe the progress toward alleviating the safety threat(s).

The natural mother had been violating the protective supervision order placed on the children. She refused several drug screens, denied Agency access to the children, Jade and Jacoby, on a monthly basis and allowed a known felon around the children. Following an Ex-Parte filed 8/31/2010 the children were placed into Foster care.

b. Describe the present protective capacities of each caregiver and highlight significant changes that may have occurred since the last assessment of safety was completed.

Jade and Jacoby are currently in an agency approved licensed foster home where their basic needs are being met. The Agency is continuing to work with their natural mother towards reunification. An Uncle from Wetzel County has come forward and is interested in caring for both children. A referral for a home study is being requested.

c. Describe the present vulnerability of each child and highlight significant changes that may have occurred since the last assessment of safety was completed.

Jacoby and Jade are able to verbalize any neglect/abuse; however, their gaes make them dependent on adults to meet their basic needs. The children were removed from the natural mother and placed into foster care where all of their daily needs are met.

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2. If a safety threat is not currently active, but had been active at any time since the last assessment of safety was completed.

Describe the safety threat and then summarize the information that demonstrates safety threat resolution, sufficient safety threat reduction and/or adequate protective capacities necessary to protect the child(ren) from serious harm.

The natural mother had been violating the protective supervision order placed over the children, Jade and Jacoby. She refused several drug screens, would not allow the Agency to have access to the children on a monthly basis and had a known felon residing in the home. The worker reviewed this information with the Agency's legal department and it was determined that the children needed to be removed from the home. The children were placed in the Agency's custody on 801/2010 following an Ex-Parte. The children are currently in an Agency approved foster home.



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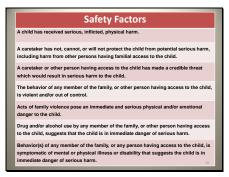
1. A safety threat is not currently active.
a. Describe new information obtained regarding protective capacities. Include information concerning any adult not interviewed for the safety assessment.

A protective supervision order was obtained over the children on May 01, 2010. The children's natural Mother's husband has been sentenced to 18 months in jail and is prohibited from having any contact with the children. The Natural Mother has agreed to comply with this agency and follow through with case plan goals to reduce the risk of harm to the children.

b. Describe new information obtained regarding child vulnerability. Include information concerning any child not interviewed for the safety assessment.

Jade and Jacoby are unable to protect themselves due to their ages. They must rely on the adults in the home to provide for their basic needs. The children have witnessed domestic violence in their home increasing their level of vulnerability.





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If a safety threat is not currently active, but had been active at any time since the last assessment of safety was completed.

Describe the safety threat and then summarize the information that demonstrates safety threat resolution, sufficient safety threat reduction and/or adequate protective capacities necessary to protect the child(ren) from serious harm.

There was a domestic violence incident between Sherry and her husband, John, in front of Jade and Jacoby at their home. Jade, age 7, called the police. John was arrested and charged. A court order was issued on April 20, 2010, prohibiting John from living in the home and being around the children.

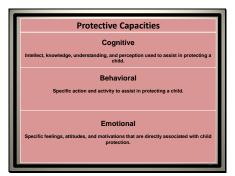
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If a safety threat is not currently active, but had been active at any time since the last assessment of safety was completed.

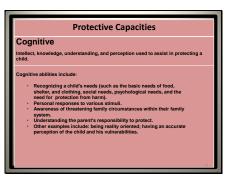
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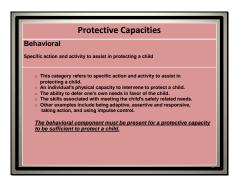
John Parsons was court ordered out of the home due to domestic violence with his wife, Sherry. He was ordered to wear an ankle monitor and reside temporarily at another address. However, John continued to live in the home with his wife, Sherry, and her children. On May 1, 2010, Sherry and John were involved in another domestic violence incident outside of the home. The incident idl not take place in the home or in front of the children. John was placed in jail and was taken to the hospital due to her sustained injuries. The children were placed with the maternal grandmother until the safety threats were reduced. Sherry must have supervised contact with the children at this time. John is in jail, he is being held without bond.



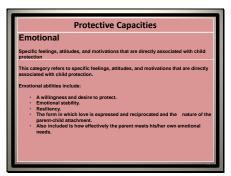


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Assessing	



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Child's Past Experiences

- ✓ History of maltreatment and/or chronic neglect
- ✓ Repeated victimization
- ✓ Does not talk about past abuse/neglect
- ✓ Passive due to ongoing maltreatment
- ✓ Child feels powerless
- Child appears fearful of anyone in the family
- ✓ Isolation

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Physical

Physical Needs
Physical Development
Appearance
Size

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Emotional Robustness Passivity Powerless Sensitivity Distractibility Adjustability Tolerance - Frustration

Cognitive

Disability
Ability to recognize abuse/neglect
Developmental stage
Emotional needs
Ability to problem solve

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Behavioral

Provocative
Defiant
Resists parental authority
Seeks negative attention
Sexually provocative behaviors
Argumentative
Energy level
Behaviors



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Slide 46 3. A safety threat is active now. a. Describe the active safety threat(s), identify which children are affected, and which caregivers or other adults are involved. Describe the progress toward alleviating the safety threat(s). The natural mother had been violating the protective supervision order placed on the children. She refused several drug screens, denied Agency access to the children, Jade and Jacoby, on a monthly basis and allowed a known felon around the children. Following an Ex-Parte filed 8/31/2010 the children were placed into Foster care. Slide 47 Describe the present protective capacities of each caregiver and highlight significant changes that may have occurred since the last assessment of safety was completed. Jade and Jacoby are currently in an agency approved licensed foster home where their basic needs are being met. The Agency is continuing to work with their natural mother towards reunification. An Uncle from Wetzel County has come forward and is interested in caring for both children. A referral for a home study is being requested. Describe the present vulnerability of each child and highlight significant changes that may have occurred since the last assessment of safety was completed. Jacoby and Jade are able to verbalize any neglect/abuse; however, their ages make them dependent on adults to meet their basic needs. The children were removed from the natural mother and placed into foster care where all of their daily needs are met. Slide 48 Quality Contacts = Quality Assessments Make Your Time

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Count!

Slide 49	Successful Home Visits ✓ Effective Communication ✓ Partnership Building ✓ Ongoing Assessment	
Slide 50	Purposeful Visits	
Slide 51	Scheduling	

Slide 52	Family Involvement	
Slide 53	Building Rapport	
Slide 54	Help Parents retain a sense of control	

Slide 55	Help child(ren) retain a sense of comfort	
Slide 56	Clarify commitment and obligations to working relationship	
Slide 57	Approach each individual involved with an open mind	

Slide 58	Acknowledge difficult feeling and encourage open and honest discussion of feelings	
Slide 59	Be consistent, persistent, and follow through	
Slide 60	Find out what is important	

Slide 61	Use mirroring	
Slide 62	Listen	
Slide 63	Reassess Safety and Risk Observe Learn Family Members and Dynamics Separate Visits with Each Parent	

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SECTION X

Reunification Assessment

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Reunification Assessment

Family members information Past and Present Safety Reunification Readiness Reunification Decision

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Section 2: Assessing Past and Present Safety

A. What were the <u>original</u> safety issues that resulted in the child(ren)'s

B. Have the <u>original</u> safety issues been altered or reduced to a sufficient

blacement that necessitated or contributed to the continuation of the

D. Have the safety issues identified in Question C been resolved or reduced

E. Are parent/guardian/custodian(s) in compliance with court orders?

Section 3: Assessing Past

and Present Safety

A. Does the child(ren) demonstrate an acceptance of the reunification plan?

B. Does the parent/guardian/custodian demonstrate an acceptance of the reunification plan?

C. Does the parent/guardian/custodian have the capacity to provide for the child(ren)'s basic needs (e.g., food, clothing, shelter, medical care)?

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Section 3: Assessing Past

and Present Safety

D. Are the parent/guardian/custodian and/or other household members willing and able to use their protective capacities, resources and strengths to provide sufficient support to the child(ren)?

E. During visits, has the parent/guardian/custodian demonstrated an ability to meet the child/engl's need for safety in a manner that suggests safety threats are not expected to emerge by the child(ren)'s presence within the family?

F. Are there any issues or concerns related to other children or adults in the family that may impact the child(ren)'s return?

G. Describe how the family dynamics will change when the child(ren) returns.



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Section 2: Assessing Past and Present Safety

A. What were the <u>original</u> safety issues that resulted in the child(ren)'s placement?

B. Have the <u>original</u> safety issues been altered or reduced to a sufficient

C. Were there other safety issues identified after the child(ren) came into placement that necessitated or contributed to the continuation of the

D. Have the safety issues identified in Question C been resolved or reduced

E. Are parent/guardian/custodian(s) in compliance with court orders?

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Section 3: Assessing Past and Present Safety

and Present Safety

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B. Does the parent/guardian/custodian demonstrate an acceptance of the reunification plan?

C. Does the parent/guardian/custodian have the capacity to provide for the child(ren)'s basic needs (e.g., food, clothing, shelter, medical care)?





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