

Safety Assessment

Factors

1. Child has inflicted physical injuries.

<u>Examples of Evidence to Support Yes Response for Safety Factor:</u>	<u>Questions:</u>
Cuts requiring stitches	1. What happened?
Broken bones and/or Dislocations	2. Show me how it happened?
Positive toxicology with harm to infant identified.	3. Did anyone see it happen?
Burns (e.g., cigarette, scalding, submersion)	4. Where did it happen?
Internal injuries (e.g., damage to internal organs or tissues)	5. Has anything like this happened to you before?
Head injuries (e.g., concussion, retinal hemorrhage, skull fractures)	6. When was the child's injury first noticed?
Serious injury to sensitive body areas (e.g., genital, eyes or ear drums)	7. When did the child first appear to be sick or injured?
Brain damage	8. Where was the child?
Injuries resulting in permanent sight, hearing or mental impairment	9. Who was with the child?
Extensive or multiple bruising and/or other injury which may cover more than one area of the body	10. How did the injury occur?
Extensive and multiple bruises or broken bones in various stages of healing which indicate a pattern of abuse	11. What types of discipline do you routinely use?
Non-accidental injuries to an infant (ages 0-12 months)	12. Who disciplines the child?
	13. Where is the child's current location?
	14. Does the child need medical care?
	15. Is it known who inflicted the harm to the child?
	16. If yes, where is the individual and what is his/her access to the child?

2. Caregiver has not, cannot, or will not protect the child from potential serious harm, including harm from other persons having familial access to the child.

<u>Examples of Evidence to Support Yes Response for Safety Factor:</u>	<u>Questions:</u>
Caregiver does not recognize need to protect child.	1. Do you believe your child?
Caregiver denies the abuse/neglect and refuses to acknowledge any problem.	2. Who cares for your child? How often?
Caregiver vacillates in commitment to protect the child.	3. From whom/what does your child need your protection?
Adult rationalizes lack of intervention or blames the child for the abuse and/or neglect (e.g., she had it coming... he needed a whipping; she wouldn't have touched her if she hadn't been flirting).	4. How do you protect your child?
Due to cognitive, emotional or physical limitations, the caregiver is unable to protect the child from the perpetrator.	5. What would you do if your child came to you and confided that he/she had been harmed by someone?
Adult knowingly places child at risk (e.g., leaves child with known perpetrator).	6. Give examples of times when you protected your child.
Caregiver verbalizes a need to protect child, but remains supportive of the alleged perpetrator.	7. Who would you tell if something bad happened to you?
	8. Do you feel safe with your mother/father?
	9. Who do you feel safe with? Why?
	10. Do you think the child would report being abused or neglected to someone?
	11. Was the caregiver present when the child was harmed? Why or why not?
	12. Is the child in the care of an adult who is protecting him?

3. Caregiver or other person having access to the child has made a plausible threat which would result in serious harm to a child.

<u>Examples of Evidence to Support Yes Response for Safety Factor:</u>	<u>Questions:</u>
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Caregiver directly, or indirectly, threatens to cause serious harm to the child in a believable manner (e.g., kill the child, not feed the child, lock the child out of the home.)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are you aware of any direct or indirect threats to hurt your child? If so, what was said? 2. Are you concerned about your child being harmed? 3. Has anyone followed through with any threats made to your child? If so, what? 4. Has your caregiver ever made any threats to harm you? 5. Do you feel safe? Why? 6. Has anyone in the home threatened to kill or seriously injure the child? 7. Who made the credible threat? 8. What makes the threat credible (i.e. past history with the family)? 9. Is the individual making the threat emotionally stable? 10. What access does the individual have to the child?
Caregiver plans to retaliate against the child for CPS involvement.	
Caregiver threatens the child with extreme or vague but sinister punishment.	
Caregiver uses extreme gestures to intimidate the child.	
Caregiver committed an act that placed the child at risk of significant/serious pain or which could have resulted in impairment or loss of bodily function.	

4. The behavior of any member of the family or other person having access to the child is violent and/or out of control.

<u>Examples of Evidence to Support Yes Response for Safety Factor:</u>		<u>Questions:</u>
Caregiver(s) who are impulsive, exhibiting physical aggression, temper outbursts or unanticipated and harmful physical reactions, such as smashing or throwing furnishings, breaking furniture, kicking, etc.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does anyone having access to the child exhibit extreme reactions to simple statements? 2. Are their behaviors impulsive and out of control? 3. Do home conditions indicate evidence of out of control behavior? (e.g. holes in walls, broken furniture, broken windows, broken doors.) 4. What frustrates or angers you? 5. What do you do to calm yourself when frustrated or angry? 6. Has anyone been involved in a fight where someone was physically injured? 7. Does anyone have access to weapons? What type? 8. Where are weapons kept in the home? 9. Do you feel safe? Why? 10. Who protects you? How? 	
Adult in the home has visible injuries resulting from being hit/beaten.		
Use of guns, knives or other weapons to threaten or harm another person.		
Behavior that seems to indicate a serious lack of self-control.		
Individual displays extreme actions or reactions such as physical attacks, violent shaking, or choking.		
Caregiver uses brutal or bizarre punishment such as scalding, burning with cigarettes, forced feedings, killing or torturing pets.		
Bizarre cruelty (locking up children, torture, etc.).		

5. Acts of family violence pose an immediate and serious physical and/or emotional danger to the child.

<u>Examples of Evidence to Support Yes Response for Safety Factor:</u>		<u>Questions:</u>
Family violence involving physical assault on a caregiver in the presence of a child.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does your partner ever prevent you from leaving home? 2. Does your partner destroy items of value to you? 3. Has your partner ever hit, slapped, pushed or kicked you? 	
Family violence when assaults on a child occur or in which a child may be attempting to intervene.		
Family violence when a child could be inadvertently harmed even though they may not be the target of the violence.		

Due to family violence caregiver is unable to provide basic care and/or supervision for the child because of injury, incapacitation, forced isolation, or other controlling behavior.	4. Has your partner ever caused serious harm to you?
Abusive behavior includes frequent use of weapons or threats of homicide/suicide towards the adult or children.	5. Has your partner verbally threatened you?
The family violence is escalating in behaviors.	6. Have the police ever been called for assistance? What happened?
Family violence is occurring in which child witnesses and is fearful.	7. Have you ever pressed charges or filed a restraining order?
	8. Has anyone else in the household acted in a violent manner?
	9. Has the child ever witnessed the event?
	10. Has your partner ever injured the child during an episode of family violence?
	11. Was the child the target of this violence?
	12. Has the child ever tried to intervene during an event of family violence?
	13. What do your caregivers argue about?
	14. Have you ever witnessed your caregivers hit each other?
	15. How often do your caregivers fight?
	16. Do you ever try to stop your caregivers from fighting? How?
	17. What do you do when your caregivers fight?

6. Drug and/or alcohol use by any member of the family or any person having access to the child places the child in immediate danger of serious harm.

Examples of Evidence to Support Yes Response for Safety Factor:	<u>Questions:</u>
Adult has had multiple periods of incapacitating intoxication (e.g., passing out, emotional collapse) when child(ren) are present.	1. What do you and your friends do together?
Adult is abusing legal or illegal substances or alcohol to the extent that control of his/her actions is significantly impaired.	2. What medication do you take (prescription or over the counter)?
Adult becomes threatening or aggressive while in the presence of the children during periods of substance use.	3. How often/much do you drink? Smoke?
Due to drug and/or alcohol abuse, the caregiver is unable, or will likely be unable, to care for the child.	4. Have you ever used any illegal drugs?
Due to drug and/or alcohol abuse, the caregiver has harmed, or is likely to harm, the child.	5. How frequently do you use?
Adult is currently being arrested and/or incarcerated due to substance abuse, use, and/or trafficking.	6. Where is your child when you use?
	7. Would you be willing to take a random drug test?
	8. Does anyone caring for the child consume alcohol or drugs while caring for the child? How often?
	9. Does anyone in your home use alcohol or drugs?
	10. When do people in your house usually sleep? Get up?
	11. Have you ever seen any drugs, powder, or needles in your home? If so, where?

7. Behavior(s) of any member of the family or any person having access to the child is symptomatic of mental or physical illness or disability that places the child in immediate danger of serious harm.

<u>Examples of Evidence to Support Yes Response for Safety Factor:</u>	<u>Questions:</u>
Caregiver or individual living with the child is delusional; experiencing hallucinations.	

	Mental health professional has identified need for the caregiver to receive treatment and identified concern for the child's safety if not treated.		
	Caregiver(s) or "others" have a disorder that reduces their ability to control their behavior in ways that threaten safety.		
	Caregiver(s) act out or exhibits distorted perception that seriously impedes ability to parent the child(ren.)		
	Physical or psychological illness or disability is present and negatively impacts the caregiver's ability to meet the basic needs of the child.		
	Physical or psychological condition requires lengthy and/or frequent periods of hospitalization in which the caregiver is unable to care for child.		
	Intellectually impaired adult places child in physical danger and/or adult is unable to recognize and provide for child's basic needs.		
	Motivation of the caregiver was to harm the child and does not show remorse.		
	Inability to understand and/or provide child's basic needs due to mental/physical illness or disability.		
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Are behaviors impulsive and out of control? Do home conditions indicate evidence of out of control behavior? (e.g. holes in walls, broken furniture, broken windows, broken doors). What frustrates or angers you? What do you do to calm yourself when you are frustrated or angry? Do you have any physical or medical diagnosis? Who is the doctor treating? Do you take any medications? Are you attending counseling? Who is your counselor? Does anyone in the household have any emotional or physical problems? If so, who? Do you feel safe? Who protects you? How? How often do you eat? Who fixes your meals? 	
<p>8. Caregiver is unwilling or unable to meet the child's immediate needs for sufficient supervision, food, clothing, and/or shelter to protect child from immediate danger of serious harm.</p>			
<u>Examples of Evidence to Support Yes Response for Safety Factor:</u>		<u>Questions:</u>	
	Caregiver leaves an infant, toddler or preschooler (a vulnerable child) at home alone.		1. How do you meet your children's basic needs?
	Caregiver leaves a vulnerable child alone for days, or overnight (e.g. child expresses fear of being alone, child unable to meet own basic needs, child has unruly/delinquent behaviors).		2. Who helps you when you are unable to provide for basic needs?
	Caregiver allows child to be left for extended periods in the care of a person who is unable to care for the child.		3. Does your child ever stay home alone? How often? How long?
	Caregiver provides no supervision to developmentally disabled or special needs child.		4. How far away from home is your child allowed to go?
	Caregiver does not intervene when a child freely plays with dangerous objects or in dangerous places.		5. What time must your child be home at night?
	Caregiver does not respond to or ignores child's basic needs.		6. What time do you usually go to bed?
	Caregiver denies food or water for an extended period of time. Child is not fed food consistently.		7. When do you get up in the morning?
	Child lacks adequate clothing for any environmental situation.		8. Who is up when you get up?
	Infant has bleeding and/or painful rash that is not being treated as a result of being left for extended periods of time in soiled diapers.		9. What do you do after you get up?
	Family lacks shelter and they do not access any resources to provide shelter.		10. How many meals do you eat a day?
	There is no heat in the home during winter.		11. What do you eat?
	Child has strong odor and suffers from a skin condition or loss of hair or teeth due to poor hygiene.		12. Who makes the meals?
			13. Who watches you when caregiver is not here?
			14. Do the children beg/ask for food? How often?
			15. Do the children play unsupervised outside? How long? How often?

9. Household environmental hazards place the child in immediate danger of serious harm.

Examples of Evidence to Support Yes Response for Safety Factor:		Questions:
	Housing is unsanitary, filthy, infested, a health hazard.	<div>1. Is there anything dangerous in your house that you think might hurt the child?</div> <div>2. Is there anything you would like to see changed about your housing situation?</div> <div>3. Does anything in your home scare you?</div> <div>4. Do you have access to needles in your home?</div> <div>5. Where do you put your dirty clothes?</div> <div>6. Where do you put your trash?</div> <div>7. Do you have roaches, insects, mice, or rats in your home?</div> <div>8. Where do you use the toilet in your home?</div> <div>9. If you could change something about the living conditions what would it be?</div>
	Excessive garbage or rotted or spoiled food which threatens health.	
	Room covered with human feces, urine or animal feces freely accessible to children.	
	The physical structure of the house is decaying, falling down.	
	Exposed electrical wiring within reach of children.	
	Medications, hazardous chemicals, alcohol/drugs, or loaded weapons accessible to children.	
	Gas leak.	
	Children have access to potentially dangerous pets in the home.	
	Excessive cockroaches, mice, rats, etc. present in the home.	

10. Any member of the family or other person having access to the child describes or acts toward child in predominantly or extremely negative terms and/or has extremely unrealistic expectations of the child.

<u>Examples of Evidence to Support Yes Response for Safety Factor:</u>		<u>Questions:</u>
	Caregiver's only interaction with the child is to threaten or intimidate.	1. How would you describe each child?
	Caregiver uses extreme gestures to intimidate child.	2. Are the rules different for each child?
	Caregiver repeatedly describes child in a demeaning or degrading manner.	3. Does the child laugh and/or smile often?
	Caregiver transfers their feelings toward someone they hate onto the child.	4. Is your child sad frequently?
	Caregiver believes the child is demonic, possessed, the devil, etc.	5. Does the child get along well with peers at school?
	Scapegoating that results in dangerous behaviors to self. (e.g., suicidal gestures, runaway, alcoholism/drug use/abuse)	6. How do you reward your child?
	Caregiver chooses not to assume the parental role and shows no interest in the child for extended periods of time. (abandonment)	7. Do any of the child's behaviors concern you? If so, what?
	Child is given responsibilities beyond his/her capabilities that are dangerous. (e.g., young child cooking, ironing, doing carpentry, climbing ladders, caring for infant)	8. What are your child's chores?
	Behavior indicates that child is assuming a parental role within the family.	9. What are the family rules you must follow?
		10. Are the rules the same for all your brothers/sisters?
		11. What are your jobs/chores?
		12. Whom do you go to when you have a problem and need to talk?
		13. What are the rules with respect to this particular child?
		14. How are the child's peer relationships?
		15. What is his/her school behavior and performance like?

11. The family refuses access to the child or there is reason to believe the family will flee.

Examples of Evidence to Support Yes Response for Safety Factor:	Questions:
Caregiver hides the child or denies access to the child.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What is your understanding of why I am here?2. What concerns do you have for your child?3. What are you most afraid of happening?4. What do you need/want to permit me access to your child?5. How can I help you and your family?
Caregiver refuses access to the home.	
Caregiver refuses to speak to CPS.	
Family has a history of moving frequently in response to CPS intervention.	
Family has <u>no</u> ties to the community such as a job, home, extended family, etc.	
Caregiver constantly deceives in respect to the child: the child's condition, home conditions, events and circumstances related to the report and CPS intervention.	
Family has a history of avoidance with CPS workers and/or law enforcement.	
Caregiver refuses other community resources to have access into the home that could help the family/child: community action, early intervention, help me grow, home health nurse, medical personnel, etc....	
12. Caregiver has an unconvincing or insufficient explanation for the child's serious injury or physical condition.	
Examples of Evidence to Support Yes Response for Safety Factor:	Questions:
Caregiver(s) acknowledges the presence of the serious injury or condition, but cannot explain how it occurred.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What happened?2. Show me how it happened?3. Did anyone see it happen?4. Where did it happen?5. Has anything like this happened to you before?6. When was the injury first noticed and how did it appear?7. When did the child first appear to be sick or injured?8. Where was the child?9. Who was with the child?10. How did the injury occur?11. What types of discipline do you routinely use?12. Who disciplines the child?13. If others discipline the child, what types of discipline do they use?14. Do the explanations provided correspond to other information (e.g., medical reports, police reports) gathered?15. Are the explanations believable or are they far-fetched?16. Is there information to corroborate the caregiver's(s') explanation?
Caregiver's explanation for the serious injury is inconsistent with the type of injury.	
Medical evaluation indicates the serious injury is a result of abuse, but the caregiver denies or attributes the injury to accidental causes.	
Facts related to the conditions, the injury or the incident as observed by the CPS worker and/or documented by other professionals contradict caregivers' explanation.	
Caregiver's description of the injury or cause of the injury minimizes the extent of harm to the child.	
Caregiver(s) has no explanation or deny any knowledge as to how the serious injury or condition occurred.	
13. Caregiver is unwilling or unable to meet the child's serious physical or mental health needs.	

<u>Examples of Evidence to Support Yes Response for Safety Factor:</u>		<u>Questions:</u>
	Care is not provided for a medical condition that could cause permanent disability if not treated.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Does your child have any behavioral problems? Does your child have any medical ailments or conditions? How is your child's general health? When was the last time your child was seen by the doctor/mental health therapist? Have you followed through with the provided physical/mental health advice? Is your child on any medications for physical and/or mental health reasons? Is the medication taken according to the directions? What is your understanding of your child's serious physical or mental health needs? Does anyone else assist you in meeting these needs? What makes you feel sad? How often do you feel sad? Have you ever thought about hurting or harming yourself? Have you ever attempted to hurt or harm yourself? If so, did you or your caregiver seek mental health counseling? Did you follow through with recommendations? When was the last time you went to the doctor? Who takes you to the doctor? Do you receive medication as prescribed? How do you feel physically? Do you feel sick often? What happens when you feel sick?
	Emergency medical treatment not provided for a potentially life-threatening condition (injury, illness.)	
	Unreasonable delay in obtaining medical services, which endanger child's life or place child at risk of permanent disability.	
	Failure to give prescribed medication when such failure places child's health or functioning in danger of serious harm.	
	Child medically diagnosed as failure to thrive for non-organic reasons.	
	Child has a serious mental illness (e.g., suicidal or homicidal) which is untreated.	
	Caregiver does not recognize or comprehend the physical or mental health need or views the malady as less serious than it is.	
	Child is consistently and actively excluded from family activities, blamed for everything negative that happens and physically punished for events beyond his/her control resulting in the need for psychiatric help.	

14. Child sexual abuse/sexual exploitation is suspected and circumstances suggest that child may be in immediate danger of serious harm.

<u>Examples of Evidence to Support Yes Response for Safety Factor:</u>		<u>Questions:</u>
	Child was engaged in sexual conduct or contact.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> What changes have you observed with your child recently, such as sleeping or eating or play habits? Have you seen the child regress to old habits again, such as thumb-sucking, bed-wetting, baby-talk, etc.? Have you noticed the child touching him/herself or others?
	Caregiver makes no effort to prevent and/or forces or encourages child to observe sexual behavior of others. (e.g., caregivers, pornographic movies)	
	Adult engages in behaviors that are sexually stimulating to either party.	
	Access by confirmed perpetrator to child continues to exist.	
	Child was engaged in sexual conduct or contact.	
	Caregiver makes no effort to prevent and/or forces or encourages child to observe sexual behavior of others. (e.g., caregivers, pornographic movies)	

<p>Adult engages in behaviors that are sexually stimulating to either party.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Does the child have bad dreams, nightmares? 5. What kind of interest has the child shown in private parts, sexual activity, sexual talk, etc.? 6. What is nap-time (bedtime) like? 7. What is bath-time like? Who bathes the child, how often, child's reactions, any special routines, etc.? 8. What does the child like to do? 9. Is there anything in particular which seems to upset the child? 10. Can you name the parts of your body? If the child does not name his or her buttocks, genitals, breasts, etc., the child should be asked to name the parts of the body covered by a bathing suit. 11. Have you ever hurt your body? 12. Who helps you take care of your body? 13. Who helps you put on your clothes; use the toilet; take a bath? 14. Do you know what safe touches and unsafe touches are? 15. Has anyone ever given you a safe touch? An unsafe touch? 16. Do you know what secret touches are? 17. Can you give me an example of a secret touch? Has anyone ever given you a secret touch? If someone touched you, who could you tell?
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