

SAFETY DETERMINATION ANALYSIS GUIDE: *Can an in-home safety plan work for this family?*



1. Does/do the child's primary parent(s)/caregiver(s) have a suitable place to reside where an in-home Safety Plan can be considered?

In order to answer "yes" to this question, the family must have a home and be expected to live there for as long as the Safety Plan may be needed. The families with whom we work often experience instability in housing due to poverty. You need to make a judgement about whether the currently living situation is stable enough to allow an in-home safety plan. Living in a car does not provide sufficient stability for an in-home Safety Plan. If the family is temporarily living with others, you will need to judge the stability of that living situation.



2. Is there confidence in the sustainability of the Safety Plan in the current location of the primary parents/caregivers?

In order to answer "yes" to this, the worker must be confident that the current location of the parent/ caregivers is stable enough that the safety plan can be carried out. Living with other relatives or with friends could be considered if there is confidence that all individuals living within that home are supportive of the plan and we are confident that the plan is sustainable. If the parent/caregiver resides in a secured building, does the safety service provider have access to the home as needed?



3. Is the home environment calm/consistent enough to allow safety services in accordance with the Safety Plan, and for people participating in the Safety Plan to be in the home safely without disruption (e.g., reasonable schedules, routine, structure, general predictability of family functioning)?

Calm and consistent refers to the routine and predictability of the home. The environment must be calm and consistent enough that safety control services can be scheduled and the schedule will be followed. A home is not sufficiently calm and consistent if there are frequently groups of outside people congregating in the home who would interfere with the ability to provide services, and these people will not disperse when safety service providers arrive. The home must be a safe place for safety service providers. If there is anyone in the home who is a threat to the physical safety of providers, an in-home Safety Plan is not possible.



4. Is/are the primary parents(s)/caregiver(s) cooperative with child welfare services and willing to participate in the development of the in-home Safety Plan?

The parents/caregivers do not need to agree with the safety assessment. They do not need to like the Safety Plan. They do not need to interact with you in a manner you would characterize as "cooperative." Willingness to allow the Safety Plan to avoid placement of the child is sufficient.



5. Is/are the primary parents(s)/caregiver(s) willing to allow safety services and actions to be provided in accordance with the Safety Plan?

This refers to the most basic level of agreement to allow safety service providers in the home and participate in the Safety Plan. Again, the parents/caregivers do not necessarily need to agree with the safety assessment, but they must be willing to engage with the safety service providers who will be in the home.



6. Does/do the child's primary parent(s)/caregiver(s) possess the necessary ability/capacity to participate in an in-home Safety Plan and do what they must do as identified in an in-home Safety Plan?

Do the caregivers/parents maintain the emotional, physical and cognitive capacity to participate in the Safety Plan as written. When considering the Safety Plan, it is important to involve the parents/caregivers as much as possible in carrying out the actions that they are capable of doing successfully.



7. Are there sufficient resources within the family or community to perform the safety services necessary to manage the identified impending danger threats?

To answer this question "Yes," you must know the duration, consistency, pervasiveness, influence, effect, and continuance of each impending danger threat in the home. In addition, the safety services must occur at the necessary days, times, and locations, and must be sufficient to control the identified danger threats. Responsible adults must have the knowledge, skill and ability to address the danger threats, and be immediately available whenever the danger threats are, or could be, present.

All of the questions are answered "YES"

In-Home Safety Plan is likely possible to control the impending danger threats

Any of the questions are answered "NO"

Out-Of-Home Safety Plan is required to control the impending danger threats