

From the Minnesota Department of Human Services Structured Decision Making Manual

SECTION 1: SAFETY ASSESSMENT

Part A. Safety Factor Identification

Directions: The following is a list of factors that may be associated with a child(ren) being in immediate danger of serious harm. **Identify the presence or absence of each by circling either “yes” or “no.”** Note: The vulnerability of each child needs to be considered throughout the assessment. Children ages 0 through 8 cannot protect themselves. For older children, inability to protect themselves could result from diminished mental or physical capacity or repeated victimization. Complete based on most vulnerable child.

Yes No

- 1. Caregiver’s current behavior is violent or out of control.
- 2. Caregiver describes or acts toward child in predominantly negative terms or has extremely unrealistic expectations.
- 3. Caregiver caused serious physical harm to the child or has made a plausible threat to cause serious physical harm.
- 4. The family refuses access to the child, there is reason to believe that the family is about to flee, and/or the child’s whereabouts cannot be ascertained.
- 5. Caregiver has not, or will not, provide supervision necessary to protect child from potentially serious harm.
- 6. Caregiver is unwilling, or is unable, to meet the child’s immediate needs for food, clothing, shelter, and/or medical or mental health care.
- 7. Caregiver has previously maltreated a child and the severity of the maltreatment, or the caregiver’s response to the previous incident(s), suggests that child safety may be an immediate concern.
- 8. Child is fearful of caregiver(s), other family members, or other people living in or having access to the home.
- 9. The child’s physical living conditions are hazardous and immediately threatening.
- 10. Child sexual abuse is suspected and circumstances suggest that child safety may be an immediate concern.
- 11. Caregiver’s drug or alcohol use seriously affects his/her ability to supervise, protect, or care for the child.
- 12. Other safety factor (specify):