

SDM SAFETY ASSESSMENT

Iowa Department of Health and Human Services

Client Name: _____ Incident Number/FACS ID: _____

County: _____ Worker Name: _____

Date Assessment Completed: _____ Assessment Type: Initial Subsequent Case closure

Names of Children Assessed:

1. _____ 4. _____

2. _____ 5. _____

3. _____ 6. _____

If more than six children are assessed, include additional names and numbers (e.g., 7. Joe Smith):

Household Name: _____

Caregiver(s) Assessed:

SECTION 1: FACTORS INFLUENCING CHILD VULNERABILITY

These are conditions resulting in child being more vulnerable to danger; select all that apply to *any* child in the household. Indicate which child exhibits the vulnerability.

- Any child in the household is age 0–5.

- Any child in the household has a diagnosed or a suspected medical condition.

- Any child in the household has a diagnosed or a suspected mental health condition.

- Any child in the household has limited or no readily accessible supports.

- Any child in the household has diminished developmental/cognitive capacity.

- Any child in the household has diminished physical capacity.

- None apply.

SECTION 2: CURRENT DANGER INDICATORS

The following list is composed of danger indicators, defined as behaviors or conditions that describe a child being in imminent danger of serious harm. Assess the above household for each danger indicator and select all that apply. If none apply, select "No danger indicators present."

- 1. Caregiver caused serious physical harm to the child or made a plausible threat to cause serious physical harm in the current assessment. Specifically, one or more of the following have occurred.
 - Serious injury or serious physical harm to the child other than accidental.
 - Caregiver fears they will abuse or neglect the child.
 - Threat to cause harm or retaliate against the child.
 - Unreasonable discipline OR substantial use of physical force.
 - Presence of illegal substances in child.
- 2. Suspected child sexual abuse committed by:
 - Caregiver;
 - Other household member; OR
 - Unknown person, AND the caregiver or other household member cannot be ruled out, AND circumstances suggest that the child's safety may be of immediate concern.
- 3. Caregiver is aware of the potential harm AND unwilling OR unable to protect the child from serious harm or threatened harm by others. This may include physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, or neglect. (Domestic violence behaviors should instead be captured under danger indicator 9.)
- 4. Caregiver's explanation or lack of explanation for the child's injury is questionable or inconsistent with the type of injury, and the nature of the injury suggests that there is imminent danger.
- 5. Caregiver does not meet the child's imminent needs for supervision, food, and/or clothing.

- 6. Caregiver does not meet the child's imminent needs for medical care or (for a suicidal or homicidal child) critical mental health care.
- 7. Physical living conditions are hazardous and immediately threatening to the child's health and/or safety.
- 8. Caregiver's current substance abuse impairs their ability to supervise, protect, or care for the child; AND the child has been harmed or is likely to be harmed without intervention.
- 9. Domestic violence exists in the household and poses an imminent danger of physical and/or emotional harm to the child.
- 10. Caregiver persistently describes the child in predominantly negative terms or acts toward the child in negative ways; AND these actions cause the child to be a danger to self or others, be suicidal, act out aggressively, or become severely withdrawn to the point they are unable to engage in positive interactions or self-care.
- 11. Caregiver's emotional instability, developmental status, or cognitive deficiency seriously impairs their current ability to supervise, protect, or care for the child; AND the child has been harmed or is likely to be harmed without intervention.
- 12. Family currently refuses access to or hides the child and/or seeks to hinder an assessment.
- 13. Current circumstances, combined with information that the caregiver has or may have previously maltreated a child in their care, suggest that the child's safety may be of immediate concern based on the previous maltreatment's severity or the caregiver's response to the previous incident.
- 14. Other (specify): _____
- 15. No danger indicators present.

If no danger indicators in Section 2 are present, go to Section 4.

If any current danger indicators are present, go to Section 3.

SECTION 3: SAFETY RESPONSE—PROTECTIVE CAPACITIES AND SAFETY INTERVENTIONS

For each danger indicator identified in Section 2, consider the resources available to the family and the community that might help to keep the child safe. Select each protective capacity and safety intervention taken and explain how each protected or protects the child from the identified dangers.

PROTECTIVE CAPACITIES

Document capacities present for any caregiver based on information gathered.

- 1. Caregiver is capable of participating in a safety plan.
- 2. Caregiver is willing to participate in a safety plan.

- 3. Caregiver has at least one supporting safe adult who was not involved in the allegation and is willing and able to participate in a safety plan.
- 4. Other: _____

SAFETY INTERVENTIONS

Considering each identified danger indicator and available protective capacities, determine which, if any, of the following safety interventions will be implemented to address the danger indicator. Safety interventions will allow the child to remain in the home for the present time. A safety plan is required to systematically describe interventions and facilitate follow-through. If no safety interventions are available that would allow the child to remain in the home, select item 9 and follow procedures for initiating court action to file for removal.

- 1. Monitoring or direct services by the Department worker and/or the Department’s child welfare contractor
- 2. Use of family strengths, neighbors, or other individuals in the community in developing and implementing a safety plan
- 3. Use of community agencies for safety interventions (specify agency or resource):
- 4. Alleged perpetrator left the home:
 - Voluntarily
 - In response to police intervention
 - In response to legal action
 - Other: _____
- 5. Caregiver who is not the alleged perpetrator moved to a safe environment with child.
- 6. Caregiver made a temporary arrangement for the child to stay with an alternative safe caregiver.
- 7. Legal action initiated; child remains in the home.
 - No-contact order
 - Protective order
 - Emergency committal order
 - Change in custody/visitation/guardianship
 - Child in Need of Assistance court action
 - Other, specify: _____
- 8. Other intervention to allow child to remain in the home: _____
- 9. Emergency removal was conducted to remove child from home due to immediate safety issues.

SECTION 4: SAFETY DECISION

Identify the safety decision by selecting the appropriate item below. This decision is based on the assessment of all danger indicators, all safety interventions, and any other information known about the case.

- 1. **Safe.** No danger indicators identified; do not complete a safety plan at this time.
- 2. **Safe with a plan.** One or more danger indicators are present; safety plan required.
- 3. **Unsafe.** One or more danger indicators are present, and removal is the only protecting intervention possible for one or more children.
 - All children were removed.
 - One or more children were removed and other children remain in home. *Safety plan required* for remaining children in the home.

SAFETY ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Describe the current factors influencing child vulnerability (conditions resulting in a child being more vulnerable to danger):

Describe any current danger indicators you identified (behaviors or conditions that describe a child being in imminent danger of serious harm). If no danger indicators were identified, please provide your rationale:

Describe the caretaker's protective capacities and safety interventions that have been taken and how each protected or protects the child from the identified danger indicators.

