



PRESENT DANGER AND PROTECTIVE PLANNING LEARNING COLLABORATIVE

AUGUST 2022: APPLICATION OF THE PRESENT DANGER CRITERIA AND CONFIRMING ALL THREATS

Present Danger Threats Criteria

Each of the Present Danger Threats must be supported by using the definition of present danger from the Safety Intervention Standards to support a critical thinking process. By taking the steps to name the **Clearly Observable Family Condition** and justifying how it is **Significant, Immediate, and Likely to Result in Severe Harm** (or not), Child Welfare Professionals can make the sort between which are conditions that need intervention, and which do not.

Severe Harm

Severe Harm as defined in the Safety Intervention Standards:

Severity refers to the degree of harm that is likely without intervention. Severe harm includes such effects as serious physical injury, disability, terror and extreme fear, impairment, and death. The harm is also in line with family conditions that could reasonably result in harsh and unacceptable pain and suffering for a vulnerable child. This judgement that severe harm is likely is also met in situations where the identified behavior, condition, or situation has not already resulted in harm.

Tips for Determination of Severe Harm

- Past behavior gives some basis for consideration but don't stop there. Name the danger that happened AND what is likely in the next few days.
- Consider the nature of the threat in conjunction with the children in the household.
- Use professional knowledge about how the unique behavior, condition, or situation plays out in households. Danger may not have happened YET, but your professional knowledge tells you it is likely without CPS intervention.
- Use reasonable judgement. Follow a logical critical path based on sufficient information.



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Step 4: Confirm All Threats

Use the Present Danger Threats to Child Safety: Definitions and Examples list to determine that ALL threats have been included as supported by the information.

Tip

Present Danger Threats are written with overlap. The presence of present danger is a CPS emergency requiring protective action. It's okay to pick all that apply rather than figure out THIS or THAT, it can be BOTH.

REFLECTION ON CONTENT

How do you ensure you are accurately naming the danger when considering the severe harm likely in each unique household?

ACTION ITEM

How does naming the danger impact your protective action? Can you see the connection between the severe harm likely and the protective measure?