

# 4 Step Framework

## Assessing Present Danger at Access

---

### Step 1: Consider the case information:

---

- Determine the household of concern.
- Identify relevant and sufficient information.
- Highlight each family(s) conditions that concern CPS.

### Step 2: Identify all Present Danger Threats that may be connected to the family condition(s).

---

### Step 3: Consider the definition of Present Danger.

---

When we are clear about the “what” of CPS concern – the clearly observable – we can then consider the other terms of the Present Danger definition.

#### ***Is the danger significant? Is it significant to CPS Purpose?***

We reference the list of Present Danger Threats in Step 2 to differentiate between family conditions that are generally concerning to the public and those that are of concern to CPS. For this reason, we also look at whether the observable condition being reported is also likely to result in severe harm.

#### ***Is the danger immediate, occurring, or in the process of occurring?***

- **Immediate:** In the midst of that which endangers the child – it is going on now.
- **Active & operating**
- **In the process of occurring:**
  - You do not witness or see the behavior, but it is happening.
  - It isn't happening right now but is “ripe to occur” – circumstances establish it could happen any time.
  - Non-caregiver is protecting or providing for the child right now, but the family circumstances constitute Present Danger.
  - Not an arbitrary time frame – generally, a few days.

#### ***Is it likely to result in severe harm?***

Detrimental effects are consistent with a serious or significant injury in accordance with the definition of severe harm found in the **Safety Intervention Standards**:

- Disablement; grave or debilitating physical health or physical conditions; terror; impairment; even death; family conditions that are reasonably likely to result in harsh or unacceptable pain and suffering for a vulnerable child.
- **Why or why not?**

### Step 4: Confirm the Present Danger Threats.

---

Now that you applied the definition of Present Danger to each family condition, you are ready to confirm which Present Danger Threats are indicated in the CPS report.

## 4 Step Framework

# Assessing Likely Impending Danger at Access

---

### Step 1: Consider the case information:

---

- Determine the household of concern
- Identify relevant and sufficient information
- Highlight each family(s) conditions that concern CPS

Be clear about the “what” of CPS concern. Remember when we are assessing for **likely** Impending Danger at Access, we are asking whether this is a family attitude, behavior, belief, motive, emotion, perception, or situation that may not be currently active, but can be anticipated to have severe effects on the child in the foreseeable future.

### Step 2: Identify all Impending Danger Threats that are likely connected to the family condition(s).

---

The list of Impending Danger threats captures the types of family conditions that concern CPS. We reference the list of Impending Danger Threats in Step 2 to differentiate between family conditions that are generally concerning to the public and those that are of particular concern to CPS. In the next step, we apply the definition of likely and Impending Danger to determine if the threat is likely.

### Step 3: Consider the definitions of Likely and Impending Danger.

---

The term Likely Impending Danger is not defined in the CPS Safety Intervention Standards. For this reason, we need to consider the definition of Likely **AND** Impending Danger to arrive at a shared understanding of the phrase.

**Likely:** Such as well might happen or be true; probable

**Impending Danger:** A foreseeable state of danger in which family behaviors, values, motives, emotions, and/or situations pose a threat that may not be currently active but can be anticipated to have severe effects on a child at any time in the near future.

Again, we do not apply threshold criteria to limited information from a single source (i.e., reporter), so we are only selecting threats that the information suggests are **likely**. Initial Assessment will need to assess further for CPS to determine if it is indeed an Impending Danger.

For any Impending Danger Threat identified, we must be able to describe that the family behavior, value, motive, emotions, and/or situation may not be currently active but can be anticipated to have severe effects on a child at any time in the near future.

### Step 4: Confirm all Likely Impending Danger Threats.

---

Now that you applied the definition of Likely and Impending Danger to each family condition, you are ready to confirm which Impending Danger Threats are indicated in the CPS report.