

**Office of Children and Family Services
CONNECTIONS Q3-08 (Build 18.10)
September 19, 2008**

Impact Analysis

Safety Assessment, Risk Assessment Profile, FAD and Other System Changes

1. Functional Areas: Child Protective Services, Foster Care, Preventive Services, FAD

2. Brief Description of Current Function/Process:

The Safety Assessment and Risk Assessment Profile (RAP) are completed for all children as part of the CPS response to a report of suspected abuse or maltreatment and they continue to be required in any case for which there is a Program Choice of "Protective" during a Family Services Stage.

The Safety Assessment identifies the presence of safety factors that potentially pose a threat of immediate or impending danger of serious harm to the child(ren) and those factors that do place the child(ren) in immediate and impending danger. The Safety Assessment is used to document safety factors present in a child's home, as well as to record a decision on the status of the child(ren)'s safety and any parent/caretaker actions or controlling intervention(s) to provide a safe environment for the child(ren) involved in the stage. The prompt identification and amelioration of any present or impending danger to the health and safety of a child is central to child welfare practice, making the effective use of the Safety Assessment a crucial tool for child welfare workers throughout the life of any case with Child Protective concerns.

The Risk Assessment Profile is a complementary tool that assists workers and supervisors in assessing the likelihood of the recurrence of child abuse or maltreatment. Risk Elements that comprise the Risk Assessment Profile identify significant behaviors and circumstances within a family unit that create different levels of risk to the child(ren). The RAP was created based on research which examined the relationship between family characteristics and subsequent indicated child abuse and maltreatment reports using actual cases in New York State. The RAP classifies cases into four risk categories: Low, Moderate, High, and Very High, based on the probability of future abuse or maltreatment. In cases deemed High or Very High Risk by the Risk Assessment, services are deemed essential in order to decrease the risk of subsequent abuse or maltreatment.

A change has also been made in the FAD module to enable compliance with a federal statutory requirement in the certification and approval of prospective or already certified or approved foster and adoptive parents. It is described later in this document.

3. What Remains the Same:

Some important improvements have been made to both the Safety Assessment and RAP, to clarify terms and to increase the utility of these tools to caseworkers and supervisors. However, the essential nature of the Safety Assessment and the Risk Assessment Profile remains the same. The Safety Assessment continues to be a support for critical thinking and structured decision-making. There is still a two step process whereby the caseworker identifies all behaviors, conditions or circumstances in this family that potentially place a child in immediate or impending danger, and then determines if any of them, alone or in combination, rise to the level of immediate or impending

danger of serious harm to the children. Based on the worker's assessment, if there are factors placing the child(ren) in immediate or impending danger, a plan is developed to protect the child(ren) and documented in the Family Assessment and Service Plan (FASP). The Safety Assessment must be completed in the investigation on same time frames as previously, and periodically as part of the FASP, for all cases with a Program Choice of "Protective." Caseworkers will also be able to incorporate a CPS-oriented Safety Assessment into a FASP through the "Add a Component" feature.

The Risk Assessment process has not changed. Workers identify risk elements present in the family and these are scored by the system and results in a system assigned overall level of risk, based on research findings. The RAP must be completed in the investigation and as part of Initial FASP, for all cases with a Program Choice of "Protective."

4. What is New:

Safety Assessment:

The Safety Assessment has changed in the following manner:

- New safety factors have been added and the language of some of the others has been modified (Appendix A).
- Definitions of key terms in the safety assessment process have been clarified (Appendix B).
- Workers must now provide narrative comments explaining each individual safety factor that has been selected.
- SCR identified safety factors will no longer pre-populate the Safety Assessment, thereby encouraging the CPS worker to make a fresh review of the presence or absence of any of the safety factors. The CPS worker can still view the safety factors checked by the SCR in the Intake.
- A 60 day limit has been added within which data from a Safety Assessment from an open INV Stage will still pre-populate a subsequent Safety Assessment in the same case.
 - Pre-fill in INV stages will be limited to be within open INV stages within a case. The system will pre-fill from Safety Assessments that have been approved within the last 60 days.
 - When a case is progressed from an FSI/FSS, the system will pre-fill from the most recent Safety Assessment in the INV to the FASP, if the Safety Assessment in the INV was done within the last 7 days, which is the current, pre Q3-08.
 - In order to pre-fill (INV to INV or INV to FSS) the Safety Assessments must be the same version (either both pre Q3-08 or both post Q3-08 versions).
- Help on all key terms is available through a shortcut (light bulb icon) from the status bar on each *Safety Assessment* window; this is in addition to regular HELP.
- The safety decision options have been modified to better reflect when there is the need for action to protect the child(ren) from danger (Appendix C). The **Safety Decision** tab has been moved into second position on the *Safety Assessment* window to better reflect the flow of the safety assessment process.
- Some edits are introduced to bring logic to the Safety Decision and which, if any, parts of the Safety Plan are required (See Appendix D).
- The concept of a "safety plan" has been introduced to the Safety Assessment and consists of the following two components:

- The “Mitigating Strengths” tab has been replaced with the **Parent(s)/Caretaker(s) Actions/Safety Plan** tab. This tab asks workers to focus on the actions the parent(s)/caretaker(s) have taken or will take to protect the safety of the child(ren). The narrative tab is supported by a robust text tool.
- The Safety Plan tab has been renamed to the **Controlling Intervention/Safety Plan** tab which also includes additional or reworded interventions. Comments, although always preferable, will only be required if two specific interventions are selected on the tab.
- A new Safety Plan (output) which can be printed and shared with parents has been created (Appendix E).

Risk Assessment Profile

The Risk Assessment Profile has changed only in the wording of many of the Risk Elements to reduce confusion and make it easier for workers to apply them accurately and consistently to actual case situations.

The chart contained in Appendix F provides a factor by factor summary of the changes in language.

FAD Change

A federal statutory mandate now requires a change in New York State’s criminal history record check requirements. As of October 1 New York’s standard will require that applicants to become foster and adoptive parents who were convicted of certain categories of felonies, or persons who have already been certified or approved to be foster or adoptive parents who are subsequently (after October 1, 2008) convicted of certain categories of felonies, must be disqualified from becoming foster or adoptive parents, or must have their certification or approval revoked. This disqualification/revocation is mandatory.

The *Fingerprint Requirement Letters* (both English and Spanish versions) and the *Denial/Revocation Letters* (both English and Spanish versions) will be updated with Q3-08 (Build 18.10) to reflect the Mandatory Disqualifier language in the law as of October 1, 2008.

Also the values in the Fingerprint Results dropdown on the **Household Member Detail** tab in the Foster and Adoptive Home Record Summary have changed to reflect the new value of “Mandatory Disqualifier.” This value will be ready for use on October 1, 2008 in advance of the implementation of Q3-08 (Build 18.10).

Workers will need to be made aware of the change in standard. As a result, the certification and approval procedures will need to be modified to incorporate this new standard into these processes, as well as for situations when parent(s) have already been certified or approved and are subsequently convicted of an applicable felony. An Informational Letter, 08-OCFS-INF-07 has been issued to explain the change and its Program Implications.

Other System Improvements

Progress Note Font Choice

Workers will be able to choose either the current standard 8 point or the new, larger 12 point font to view Progress Notes in the Print Preview mode and will be able to choose between these options when printing Progress Notes.

Pre-fill “Focus” in Progress Notes when family participants are selected

Progress notes that record casework contacts with foster children are often not counted towards meeting the federal requirement because incorrect data values were selected by the worker. One of the most frequent issues is the failure of the worker to identify the child as a “Focus” of the contact in the Progress Note. As a result of the change, when a Progress Note is being entered and a family member has been chosen as a participant, the Focus field will automatically be pre-filled with the family member as the focus. If a family member was present but not the focus of the contact, the focus field is to be unchecked. This change will assist workers in demonstrating compliance with casework contact standards pursuant to the federal requirements.

Allowing unit approver to locally maintain “To Do’s”

If a worker leaves employment, their CONNECTIONS account cannot be end-dated if Task (T) To-Do’s remain on their To-Do list. Currently, the district/agency must contact the CONNECTIONS Triage Unit to request a data fix in order for these “To Do’s” to be deleted. This change will enable the unit approver to locally maintain “To Do’s,” thereby alleviating the need to request a special data fix to remove “To Do’s” from a worker’s “To Do list.” The unit approver will be able to reassign the “To Do’s” to a supervisor or another worker, who can then complete them.

5. Implications/Considerations:

- Staff should be made aware of the changes and oriented to the content of the changes. We strongly encourage that all staff view the August 27 teleconference that reviews the changes in more detail and complete the new Safety and Risk CBT once it is available. The CBT is designed as a refresher for basic safety and risk techniques, rather than just a review of the build changes.
- System and programmatic changes that should be evaluated for a potential need to change local business processes and practice expectations include:
 - Need to comment on each safety factor rather than all factors in a single comment
 - Individual supervisor and worker awareness of changed safety assessment decision options
 - How and when the new Safety Plan Output is to be used with parent(s)/caretaker(s) and others with roles in the plan

- Reminder for workers to check the SCR Intake for any safety factors checked by the SCR worker, as these will not be pre-populated in the initial Safety Assessment in the INV Stage
- Need to modify FAD certification and approval standards and procedures to incorporate new, mandatory disqualifier standard
- Several tools will be available to assist in orienting workers:
 - Build Job Aid
 - Release Notes
 - View online tape of 8/27 Teleconference summarizing Risk and Safety changes
 - New York City based teleconferences from September 9-17 (*Note: As of 9-19, additional teleconferences are in the process of being scheduled for those who were unable to attend the initial round. Announcements will be made in the CONNECTIONS weekly bulletins and through ACS's mailings to Voluntary Agencies contracting with New York City.*)
 - Updated Online Help
 - Updated Safety and Risk Field Guide
 - Computer Based Training Module (CBT) providing a refresher for Risk and Safety, including the changes to be implemented in Q3-08. The CBT is expected to be available early in the 4th quarter of 2008.

Appendices

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Appendix A--Safety Factor Changes

Safety Factor	Modification
1. Based on your present assessment and review of prior history of abuse or maltreatment, the Parent(s)/Caretaker(s) is unable or unwilling to protect the child(ren).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess both prior history and current behaviors of parent(s)/caretaker(s) Is there a pattern of not protecting, of minimizing harm?
2. Parent(s)/Caretaker(s) currently uses alcohol to the extent that it negatively impacts his/her ability to supervise, protect and/or care for the child(ren).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changed “seriously affects” changed to “negatively impacts” More general and easier to apply to case situations
3. Parent(s)/Caretaker(s) currently uses illicit drugs or misuses prescription medication to the extent that it negatively impacts his/her ability to supervise, protect and/or care for the child(ren).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added “negatively impacts” language Reduce confusion re: degree of drug abuse Added prescription drug misuse
4. Child(ren) has experienced or is likely to experience physical or psychological harm as a result of domestic violence in the household.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes
5. Parent(s)/Caretaker(s)’s apparent or diagnosed medical or mental health status or developmental disability negatively impacts his/her ability to supervise, protect, and/or care for the child(ren).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changed language to “negatively impacts” Added medical to parental conditions
6. Parent(s)/Caretaker(s) has a recent history of violence and/or is currently violent and out of control.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded to include recent episodes or patterns of violent behavior as well as the ones happening today
7. Parent(s)/Caretaker(s) is unable and/or unwilling to meet the child(ren)’s needs for food, clothing, shelter, medical or mental health care and/or control child’s behavior.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children’s behavior may put themselves in immediate or impending danger of serious harm if the parent does not control that behavior
8. Parent(s)/Caretaker(s) is unable and/or unwilling to provide adequate supervision of the child(ren).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes
9. Child(ren) has experienced serious and/or repeated physical harm or injury and/or the Parent(s)/Caretaker(s) has made a plausible threat of serious harm or injury to the child(ren).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modified to focus on whether a child had experienced injuries or been threatened with serious harm, rather than whether previous allegations were substantiated or not Need to identify factors that MAY be placing the child in danger. This factor is not an investigation conclusion, it is a safety assessment

<p>10. Parent(s)/Caretaker(s) views, describes or acts toward the child(ren) in predominantly negative terms and/or has extremely unrealistic expectations of the child(ren).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes
<p>11. Child(ren)'s current whereabouts cannot be ascertained and/or there is reason to believe the family is about to flee or refuses access to the child(ren).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes
<p>12. Child(ren) has been or is suspected of being sexually abused or exploited and the Parent(s)/Caretaker(s) is unable or unwilling to provide adequate protection of the child(ren).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added "or exploited" to expand the assessment beyond only the terms of parent/child sexual contact
<p>13. The physical condition of the home is hazardous to the safety of the child(ren).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on what conditions are hazardous specifically to the children
<p>14. Child(ren) expresses or exhibits fear of being in the home due to current behaviors of Parent(s)/ Caretaker(s) or other persons living in, or frequenting the household.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New language reflects that this is deduced by staff from the child's actions or statements- it doesn't have to be a firm, certain conclusion
<p>15. Child(ren) has a positive toxicology for drugs and/or alcohol.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used in NYC and was recommended to be added for statewide use
<p>16. Child(ren) has significant vulnerability, is developmentally delayed, or medically fragile (e.g. on Apnea Monitor) and the Parent(s)/ Caretaker(s) is unable and/or unwilling to provide adequate care and/or protection of the child(ren).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studies have shown the children with significant disabilities or other vulnerabilities are potentially in danger when parents do not take steps to adequately attend to the children's needs
<p>17. Weapon noted in CPS report or found in the home and Parent(s)/Caretaker(s) is unable and/or unwilling to protect the child(ren) from potential harm.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used in NYC and recommended for use upstate due to the potential danger to children of accessible firearms
<p>18. Criminal activity in the home negatively impacts Parent(s)/Caretaker(s) ability to supervise, protect and/or care for the child(ren).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Factor • Recommended due to the potential danger that exists to children in homes where drug production, trafficking, prostitution, etc., occur.
<p>No Safety Factors present at this time.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no longer an "other" category. • Found that when "Other" used instead of checking a safety factor, the case circumstances that were described did correspond to an existing safety factor or to the ones that have now been added.

Safety Factor List

1. Based on your present assessment and review of prior history of abuse or maltreatment, the Parent(s)/Caretaker(s) is unable or unwilling to protect the child(ren).
2. Parent(s)/Caretaker(s) currently uses alcohol to the extent that it negatively impacts his/her ability to supervise, protect and/or care for the child(ren).
3. Parent(s)/Caretaker(s) currently uses illicit drugs or misuses prescription medication to the extent that it negatively impacts his/her ability to supervise, protect and/or care for the child(ren).
4. Child(ren) has experienced or is likely to experience physical or psychological harm as a result of domestic violence in the household.
5. Parent(s)/Caretaker(s)'s apparent or diagnosed medical or mental health status or developmental disability negatively impacts his/her ability to supervise, protect, and/or care for the child(ren).
6. Parent(s)/Caretaker(s) has a recent history of violence and/or is currently violent and out of control.
7. Parent(s)/Caretaker(s) is unable and/or unwilling to meet the child(ren)'s needs for food, clothing, shelter, medical or mental health care and/or control child's behavior.
8. Parent(s)/Caretaker(s) is unable and/or unwilling to provide adequate supervision of the child(ren).
9. Child(ren) has experienced serious and/or repeated physical harm or injury and/or the Parent(s)/Caretaker(s) has made a plausible threat of serious harm or injury to the child(ren).
10. Parent(s)/Caretaker(s) views, describes or acts toward the child(ren) in predominantly negative terms and/or has extremely unrealistic expectations of the child(ren).
11. Child(ren)'s current whereabouts cannot be ascertained and/or there is reason to believe the family is about to flee or refuses access to the child(ren).
12. Child(ren) has been or is suspected of being sexually abused or exploited and the Parent(s)/Caretaker(s) is unable or unwilling to provide adequate protection of the child(ren).
13. The physical condition of the home is hazardous to the safety of the child(ren).
14. Child(ren) expresses or exhibits fear of being in the home due to current behaviors of Parent(s)/Caretaker(s) or other persons living in, or frequenting the household.
15. Child(ren) has a positive toxicology for drugs and/or alcohol.

16. Child(ren) has significant vulnerability, is developmentally delayed, or medically fragile (e.g. on Apnea Monitor) and the Parent(s)/Caretaker(s) is unable and/or unwilling to provide adequate care and/or protection of the child(ren).
17. Weapon noted in CPS report or found in the home and Parent(s)/Caretaker(s) is unable and/or unwilling to protect the child(ren) from potential harm.
18. Criminal activity in the home negatively impacts Parent(s)/Caretaker(s) ability to supervise, protect and/or care for the child(ren).
19. **No Safety Factors** present at this time.

Appendix B--Safety Definitions

Safety

A child is safe when there is no immediate or impending danger of serious harm to a child's life or health as a result of acts of commission or omission (actions or inactions) by the child's parents and/or caretakers.

Safety Factor

A Safety Factor is a behavior, condition, or circumstance that has the potential to place a child in immediate or impending danger of serious harm.

Immediate Danger

A child is in immediate danger when presently exposed to serious harm. In deciding whether the child(ren) is in immediate or impending danger, consider the following:

- the seriousness of the behaviors/circumstances reflected in the safety factor;
- the number of safety factors present;
- the degree of the child(ren)'s vulnerability and need for protection; and
- the age of the child(ren).

Impending Danger

A child is in impending danger when exposure to serious harm is emerging, about to happen, or is a reasonably foreseeable consequence of current circumstances. In deciding whether the child(ren) is in immediate or impending danger, consider the following:

- the seriousness of the behaviors/circumstances reflected in the safety factor;
- the number of safety factors present;
- the degree of the child(ren)'s vulnerability and need for protection; and
- the age of the child(ren).

Safety Decision

The Safety Decision is a statement of the current safety status of the child(ren) and the actions that are needed to protect the child(ren) from immediate or impending danger of serious harm. A safety decision is dynamic, and is always based on the information you have available to you at the time of the decision.

Safety Plan

A safety plan:

- is a clearly identified set of actions, including controlling interventions when necessary, that have been, or will be taken without delay, to protect the child(ren) from immediate or impending danger of serious harm;

- addresses all of the behaviors, conditions, or circumstances that create the immediate or impending danger of serious harm to the child(ren);
- specifies the tasks and responsibilities of all persons (Parent/Caretaker, household/family members, caseworker, or other service providers) who have a role in protecting the child(ren);
- delineates the timeframes associated with each action or task in the plan that must be implemented;
- identifies how the necessary actions and tasks in the plan will be managed and by whom;
- must be modified in response to changes in the family's circumstances, as necessary, to continually protect the child(ren) throughout the life of the case; and
- is necessary until the protective capacity of the Parent/Caretaker is sufficient to eliminate immediate or impending danger of serious harm to the child(ren) in the absence of any controlling interventions.

A safety plan is **not** a set of educational, rehabilitative or supportive activities or services intended to reduce risk, address underlying conditions and contributing factors, or to bring about long-term and lasting change within a family.

Controlling Interventions:

Controlling interventions are activities or arrangements which protect a child from situations, behaviors or conditions which are associated with immediate or impending danger of serious harm, and without which the dangerous situations, behaviors or conditions would still be present, would emerge, or would in all likelihood immediately return.

Appendix C--Safety Decision Options

Option	Rationale for Changes
<p>Option 1: <i>No Safety Factors were identified at this time. Based on currently available information, there is no child(ren) likely to be in immediate or impending danger of serious harm. No Safety Plan/Controlling Interventions are necessary at this time.</i></p>	<p>This option remains essentially the same. The concept of “impending” danger has been added as has a statement that neither a safety plan nor controlling interventions are needed.</p> <p>Every safety decision option includes a statement of the need for a safety plan or controlling interventions. Case reviews have revealed that although option 1 was selected, workers often put an intervention in place, thereby indicating the presence of a danger to the child(ren). Workers apparently interpreted the current option to mean that due to their action- the child was no longer in danger. Hopefully, by including a statement about the existence of a safety plan or intervention, this error will be avoided.</p>
<p>Option 2: <i>Safety Factors exist, but do <u>not</u> rise to the level of immediate or impending danger of serious harm. No Safety Plan/Controlling Interventions are necessary at this time. However, identified Safety Factors have been/will be addressed with the Parent(s)/Caretaker(s) and reassessed.</i></p>	<p>Option 2 reinforces the expectation that reaching a safety decision is a two-step process. First, do safety factors exist? If so, do they rise to a level that represents a danger to the children? Further, the language about “mitigating strengths and resources” has been removed since many caseworkers found this confusing. Rather than identifying specific protective factors and actions, caseworkers frequently cited general strengths, such as “Parents love their children”.</p> <p>A safety Assessment is not an assessment of general family strengths and needs- it is about identifying serious threats to children- immediate and impending dangers and concrete measures that will protect children from those dangers now. So, if a caseworker identifies some safety factors but determines that they are not placing the child in immediate or impending</p>

	<p>danger- no protective action has to be taken now by the parent or by the caseworker. But it is still essential to identify the conditions or behaviors that cause concern. The caseworker needs to bring them to the parents' attention and monitor them either during the course of the investigation or during the course of on-going work with the family in a foster care or preventive services case.</p>
<p>Option 3: <i>One or more Safety Factors are present that place the child(ren) in immediate or impending danger of serious harm. A Safety Plan is necessary and has been implemented/maintained through the actions of the Parent(s)/Caretaker(s) and/or either CPS or Child Welfare staff. The child(ren) will remain in the care of the Parent(s)/Caretaker(s).</i></p>	<p>This is a clear statement of the presence of immediate or impending danger to children, which means that action must be taken to protect them from that danger. The action is the implementation of a Safety Plan in such a way that the children can be safe while in the care of the parent/caretaker.</p>
<p>Option 4 <i>One or more Safety Factors are present that place the child(ren) in immediate or impending danger of serious harm. Removal to, or continued placement in, foster care or an alternative placement setting is necessary as a Controlling Intervention to protect the child(ren).</i></p>	<p>The meaning of this decision remains as it always has been, that a child is in danger and only removal to out of home care or remaining in such care can protect the child. The language has been changed to be consistent with the other decisions. As is the case now, if one or more children remain in the home, the worker needs to be able to clearly explain what is protecting them and allowing them to remain safely in the home.</p>
<p>Option 5 <i>One or more Safety Factors are present that place or may place the child(ren) in immediate or impending danger of serious harm, but Parent(s)/Caretaker(s) has refused access to the child(ren) or fled, or the child(ren)'s whereabouts are unknown.</i></p>	<p>This decision remains the same as now, with the exception that the action taken to locate the child is to be noted in the safety plan.</p>

Updated Safety Decision Options:

The safety decision is a statement of the current safety status of the child(ren) and the actions that are needed to protect the child(ren) from immediate or impending danger of serious harm. The decision is based on currently available information. When documenting their safety decision, caseworkers will select the safety decision that most accurately reflects case circumstances.

1. No Safety Factors were identified at this time. Based on currently available information, there is no child(ren) likely to be in immediate or impending danger of serious harm. No Safety Plan/Controlling Interventions are necessary at this time.

2. Safety Factors exist, but do not rise to the level of immediate or impending danger of serious harm. No Safety Plan/Controlling Interventions are necessary at this time. However, identified Safety Factors have been/will be addressed with the Parent(s)/Caretaker(s) and reassessed.

3. One or more Safety Factors are present that place the child(ren) in immediate or impending danger of serious harm. A Safety Plan is necessary and has been implemented/maintained through the actions of the Parent(s)/Caretaker(s) and/or either CPS or Child Welfare staff. The child(ren) will remain in the care of the Parent(s)/Caretaker(s).

4. One or more Safety Factors are present that place the child(ren) in immediate or impending danger of serious harm. Removal to, or continued placement in, foster care or an alternative placement setting is necessary as a Controlling Intervention to protect the child(ren).

Note: If safety decision #4 is chosen from the Safety Decision tab, the Placement window asks: "Please document which children were placed or remain in foster care or an alternative placement. If applicable, please identify the protecting factors that allow each child to safely remain in the home"

5. One or more Safety Factors are present that place or may place the child(ren) in immediate or impending danger of serious harm, but Parent(s)/Caretaker(s) has refused access to the child(ren) or fled, or the child(ren)'s whereabouts are unknown.

Appendix D—Safety Assessment Plan Tab Edits

	Parent/Caretaker Actions/Safety Plan	Controlling Interventions/Safety Plan
<p>1. No Safety Factors were identified at this time. Based on the currently available information, there is no child(ren) likely to be in immediate or impending danger of serious harm. No Safety Plan/Controlling Interventions are necessary at this time.</p>	<i>Disabled</i>	<i>Disabled</i>
<p>2. Safety Factors exist, but do not rise to the level of immediate danger of serious harm. No Safety Plan/Controlling Interventions are necessary at this time. However, identified Safety Factors have been/will be addressed with the Parent(s)/Caretaker(s) and reassessed.</p>	<i>Optional</i>	<i>Disabled</i>
<p>3. One or more Safety Factors are present that place the child(ren) in immediate or impending danger of serious harm. A safety Plan is necessary and has been implemented/maintained through the actions of the Parent(s)/Caretaker(s) and/or either CPS or Child welfare staff. Children will remain in the care of the Parent(s)/Caretaker(s).</p>	<i>Required</i>	<i>Required</i>
<p>4. One or more Safety Factors are present that place the child(ren) in immediate or impending danger of serious harm. Removal to, or continued placement in, foster care or an alternative placement setting as a Controlling Intervention to protect the child(ren).</p>	<i>Optional</i>	<i>Required</i>

<p>5. One or more Safety Factors are present that place or may place the child(ren) in immediate or impending danger of serious harm, but Parent(s)/Caretaker(s) has refused to access the child(ren) or fled, or the child(ren)'s whereabouts are unknown.</p>	<p><i>Disabled</i></p>	<p><i>Required</i></p>
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Appendix E

Risk Assessment Factors—Changes for Q3-08 (Build 18.10)

OLD	NEW
1. Total prior reports for adults and children in RAP family unit.	1. Total prior reports for adults and children in RAP family unit.
2. Child(ren) in RAP family unit was in the care or custody of substitute caregivers or foster parents, at any time prior the current report.	2. Any child in the RAP family unit was in the care or custody of any substitute caregivers (informally or formally) at any time prior to the current report date.
3. Child(ren) under one year old in RAP family unit.	3. Child under one year old in RAP family unit at time of the current report, and/or new infant since report.
4. Inadequate housing with serious health or safety hazards; extreme overcrowding, or no housing.	4. Current or recent history of housing with serious health or safety hazards; extreme overcrowding; unstable housing; or no housing.
5. Financial resources are severely limited or mismanaged to the degree basic family needs are chronically unmet.	5. Financial resources are mismanaged or limited to the degree that one or more basic family needs are intermittently or chronically unmet.
6. Caretaker(s) in primary household has reliable and useful social support, from extended family, friends, or neighbors.	6. Caretaker has, and utilizes, reliable and constructive support and assistance from extended family, friends, or neighbors.
7. Caretaker is a perpetrator of, or victim of domestic violence; or has serious conflicts with other adults.	7. Caretaker has been a victim or perpetrator of abusive or threatening incidents with partners or other adults in family/neighborhood.
8. Caretaker(s) with alcohol abuse problem within the past two years, with risk of not meeting responsibilities.	8. Caretaker's alcohol use has had negative effects on child care, family relationships, jobs, or arrests, within the past two years.
9. Caretaker(s) with drug abuse problem within the past two years, with risk of not meeting responsibilities.	9. Caretaker's drug use has had negative effects on child care, family relationships, jobs, or arrests, within the past two years.
10. Caretaker(s) has a serious mental health problem.	10. Caretaker's behavior suggests a mental health problem exists and/or caretaker has a diagnosed mental illness.
11. Caretaker(s) has very limited cognitive skills.	11. Caretaker has very limited cognitive skills.
12. Caretaker(s) has a debilitating physical illness or physical disability.	12. Caretaker has a debilitating physical illness or physical disability.
13. Caretaker(s) has and applies realistic	13. Caretaker demonstrates developmentally

expectations of all the children.	appropriate expectations of <u>all</u> children.
14. Caretaker(s) always or usually recognizes and attends to needs of all children.	14. Caretaker attends to needs of <u>all</u> children and prioritizes the children's needs above his/her own needs or desires.
15. Caretaker(s) views the abuse/maltreatment situation as seriously as the caseworker.	15. Caretaker understands the seriousness of current or potential harm to the children, and is willing to address any areas of concern.