

CPS Assessment Procedures

1. Overview

The Oregon Safety Model clearly outlines the duties of Child Welfare workers to ensure child safety through the life of the case. The CPS assessment is crucial to identifying present danger safety threats and impending danger safety threats and assuring child safety through protective action plans, initial safety plans, or ongoing safety plans. The CPS assessment is more than simply fact-finding. It also includes establishing rapport with family members and engaging them in the safety intervention process. Child safety is the primary focus of any CPS assessment and effective family engagement enhances the quality of the CPS assessment.

All CPS assessments have many of the same components which include:

- Making initial contact within the assigned response time line
- Making face-to-face contact with the alleged victim, his or her siblings, his or her parent or caregiver, other children and adults living in the home, and the alleged perpetrator
- Accessing and viewing the home environment
- Gathering safety-related information through interviews and observations
- Determining if there is a present danger safety threat
- Determining if there is an impending danger safety threat by applying the safety threshold criteria
- Developing a protective action plan when a child is determined to be unsafe due to a present danger safety threat
- Developing an initial safety plan when a child is determined to be unsafe due to an impending danger safety threat
- Developing an ongoing safety plan when a child is determined to be unsafe from an impending danger safety threat at the conclusion of a protective action plan or the conclusion of the CPS assessment
- Determining whether the initial safety plan, or ongoing safety plan is the least intrusive plan sufficient to manage child safety by identifying how the safety threat is occurring and applying the in-home safety plan criteria
- Developing conditions for return when an out-of-home ongoing safety plan is established
- Determining whether a family has moderate to high needs when a child is determined to be safe
- Offering and, if a family accepts and services are available, referring a family with moderate to high needs to relevant non-contracted community services.
- Determining if there is a reasonable cause to believe that child abuse or neglect occurred.

Note: A CPS assessment must be completed by a Department employee whose current position is a CPS worker, a CPS supervisor, or who meets the definition of CPS worker. The

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definitions for CPS supervisor and CPS worker as defined in OAR 413-015-0115 are:

- “Child protective services supervisor” (CPS supervisor) means an employee of the Department trained in child protective services and designated as a supervisor.
- “Child protective services worker” (CPS worker) means an employee of the Department who has completed the mandatory Department training for child protective service workers.

Please see “Special Considerations for CPS Assessment” for specific information on the following:

- Referrals on an open case
- Completing CPS interviews at public or private schools
- CPS assessment when there is a child fatality
- Determination of ICWA Status
- Determination of refugee status
- Arranging for an interpreter or translation
- Cultural considerations
- Taking photographs during the CPS assessment
- Obtaining medical examinations during the CPS assessment
- Obtaining psychological and psychiatric evaluations during the CPS assessment
- Determining when medical assessments, dental assessments and mental health assessments need to be completed for children in substitute care
- Children with special needs and the CPS assessment
- Substance abuse
- Domestic violence