

11. Make Child Safety Decision and Determine Whether to Open a Case

As outlined in OAR 413-015-9040, after all the necessary information is gathered for the CPS assessment and the disposition has been determined, the CPS worker must determine if the child is safe or unsafe at the conclusion of the CPS assessment. To make a child safety decision at the conclusion of a CPS assessment, the CPS worker must again determine if an impending danger safety threat is present as outlined in OAR 413-015-0425, “Determine if there is a Present Danger Safety Threat or Impending Danger Safety Threat.”

- When at the conclusion of the CPS assessment the CPS worker determines one or more impending danger safety threats are present, including a previously identified impending danger safety threat that has not been eliminated, the CPS worker must conclude the child is unsafe. When the CPS worker concludes the child is unsafe at the conclusion of the CPS assessment, the CPS worker must:
 - Determine how the impending danger safety threat is occurring to support the development of an ongoing safety plan as outlined in OAR 413-015-0428, “Identify How the Impending Danger Safety Threat is Occurring”;
 - Develop an ongoing safety plan as outlined in OAR 413-015-0450, “Develop Safety Plans”;
 - Complete the CPS assessment; and
 - Open a case.
- When at the conclusion of the CPS assessment the CPS worker determines no present danger safety threats or impending danger safety threats are present and any identified previously have been eliminated, the CPS worker must conclude the child is safe. When the CPS worker concludes the child is safe at the conclusion of the CPS assessment, the CPS worker must:
 - Dismiss the protective action plan or initial safety plan if one is in place; and
 - Determine if the family has moderate to high needs unless completing a CPS assessment involving the home of a Department certified foster parent or relative caregiver.
- When the CPS worker determines the family does not have moderate to high needs the CPS worker must complete and close the CPS assessment.
- When the CPS worker determines the family does have moderate to high needs, the CPS worker must:
 - (i) Offer the family referrals to relevant non-contracted community services as available;
 - (ii) If the family accepts the offer, the CPS worker must refer the family to relevant non-contracted community services as available; and,
 - (iii) Complete and close the CPS assessment
- The CPS worker must document in OR-Kids the child safety decision including:
 - If the child is safe and the assessment will be closed or the child is unsafe and the

- case will be opened; and
- If the child is safe:
 - (i) Whether the family was determined to have moderate to high needs and the basis for the determination;
 - (ii) If applicable, whether the family accepted the offer for relevant non-contracted community service referrals.
- The basis for the determination of whether the child is safe or unsafe.

Procedure

At the conclusion of the assessment the CPS worker will make one of the following child safety decisions based on information gathered:

The child is safe but family has moderate to high needs.

- When the CPS worker identifies that the child is safe and the family has moderate to high needs, the family will be offered referrals to relevant (services directly related to the needs identified) non-contracted (these are services that DHS does not pay for) as available (if the relevant service is accessible to the family).
- If the family accepts the offer for non-contracted service referrals, make the referrals and assist the family in connecting with the service.
- All cases where the children are safe and the family has moderate to high needs must be closed.

The child is safe and the family does not have moderate to high needs.

- Please refer to the Chapter II section on moderate to high needs.

The child is unsafe.

- The CPS worker will develop an ongoing safety plan.