

13. Child Safety Meeting

A child safety meeting must be used when developing an ongoing safety plan, unless an exception to the meeting is authorized by a supervisor. The purpose of the child safety meeting is to:

- Re-evaluate the protective action or initial safety plan, if one is in place, to determine if it is appropriate and sufficient as an ongoing safety plan;
- Re-confirm all commitments with participants if a protective action or initial safety plan is to become an ongoing safety plan; and
- Discuss how the ongoing safety plan is the least intrusive means that can effectively manage how impending danger safety threats are occurring within the family. All in-home options must be considered and the in-home safety plan criteria must be applied before developing an out-of-home ongoing safety plan.

Procedure

- Schedule a meeting at the end of the CPS assessment process to develop an ongoing safety plan.
- Invite the child's parents, other family members who may contribute to the child's safety, tribal participants if the child is an Indian child, individuals or providers who may provide safety services, and other individuals who can contribute to the child's safety. This may include inviting potential placement resources.
- Before the child safety meeting convenes:
 1. Prepare to share information on why the child is unsafe, what led to the child becoming unsafe, and be able to speak to how the family behaviors, conditions and circumstances resulted in the specific impending danger safety threats identified.
 2. If the child(ren) is placed out of the home, ensure that it is the least intrusive plan to ensure child safety and that the conditions for return are determined and speak to specific criteria for reunification to occur.
 3. Consult with your supervisor about possible options for the ongoing safety plan.
 4. Share with the ongoing worker and/or facilitator information about the identified impending danger safety threats and family history of abuse, neglect and specifically domestic violence.
- During the meeting:
 1. Request that parents sign releases of information necessary and specific to the meeting.
 2. When prompted by the facilitator, explain the specific purpose of the meeting, what is known about the identified impending danger safety threats, how it has been determined that the child is unsafe, and any protective action taken or initial safety plan put into place during the CPS assessment.
 3. Always be aware that it is ultimately Child Welfare's responsibility to determine the sufficiency of the ongoing safety plan.

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4. Provide information on the criteria for the sufficiency of an ongoing safety plan.
 5. Consider the options presented during the meeting.
 6. Work with the facilitator to assist in identifying options when seeking to develop the least intrusive plan able to keep the child safe. If more than one option presents itself that the Department supports, allow for flexibility with those present to participate in planning for the child(ren)
 7. Help everyone present to understand how an ongoing safety plan manages the child's safety and their role in the plan.
 8. Involve the parents/caregivers.
 - a. Parents should be consulted as to which support people they feel should be present.
 - b. The worker should be clear with the parent that the ongoing safety plan will be developed at this meeting and any concerns or alternatives should be brought to the meeting to be addressed.
 - c. Parents should be included around planning for special events and cultural considerations should be discussed to ensure minimal disruption to the children's lives.
 9. When there is disagreement, ask the facilitator to ask for a brief meeting break, consult with the facilitator and the ongoing worker, if present, and have the facilitator reconvene the meeting, reminding participants that Child Welfare is responsible for determining the sufficiency of the ongoing safety plan.
- Once safety decisions have been determined:
 1. Document the ongoing safety plan on the CF 1149 in OR-Kids within five business days.
 2. Confirm commitments from participants and obtain signatures on the ongoing safety plan (CF1149).
 3. Confirm the ongoing safety plan is the least intrusive intervention possible at this time to ensure child safety.
 4. Obtain the approval of your supervisor.
 5. Request signatures of all participants.
 6. Provide copies of the approved plan to all ongoing safety plan participants.