

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 7: In-Home Services Section 11: In-Home Risk and Safety Reassessment	
	Effective Date: April 1, 2023	Version: 4

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POLICY OVERVIEW

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will conduct the In-Home Risk and Safety Reassessment on all open cases when the child remains in the home or when the child has returned home to evaluate the family's progress toward completion of case plan goals.

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PROCEDURE

The In-Home Risk and Safety Reassessment will first be conducted within 45 days of the Disposition Hearing and at least every 180 days thereafter on all open permanency cases where services to preserve the family are provided. See policy 5.10 Family Services for more information.

Note: The In-Home Risk and Safety Reassessment may be completed earlier if the circumstances have changed, new information has been disclosed, and/or any case junctures may affect the child's safety and/or risk in the home. The Safety Reassessment assesses the child's present danger and the interventions currently needed to protect the child. In contrast, the Risk Reassessment looks at the likelihood of future maltreatment.

The Family Case Manager (FCM) will:

1. Answer all questions on the In-Home Risk and Safety Reassessment;
2. Determine if any safety threats exist;
3. Document any protective factors the family demonstrates having that may mitigate the existing safety threats (see Protective Factors to Promote Well-Being and Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect document);
4. Determine the risk level;
5. Discuss the results of the In-Home Risk and Safety Reassessment with the FCM Supervisor during regular case staffing; and
6. Discuss the results of the In-Home Risk and Safety Reassessment with the CFT to develop a plan to assist in the identification, utilization, and development of the family's strengths, informal supports, and services to address needs. Include the date and results of the most recent In-Home Risk and Safety Reassessment on the CFT Meeting form. See policy 5.07 Child and Family (CFT) Meetings for additional guidance.

Note: If no safety threats exist, consider recommending case closure with supervisory approval. See policy 5.12 Closing a CHINS Case for additional information.

The FCM Supervisor will:

1. Provide guidance and assistance to the FCM on the use of the In-Home Risk and Safety Reassessment during regular case staffing; and
2. Ensure the In-Home Risk and Safety Reassessment is properly documented in the case management system.

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RELEVANT INFORMATION

Definitions

Case Juncture

A case juncture is defined as a new awareness of significant information regarding the child or family's strengths or needs, which may impact the Case Plan and/or Safety Plan. Case junctures may include, but are not limited to, transition planning and/or positive or negative changes in:

1. Placement;
2. Formal and informal supports;
3. Family involvement;
4. Visitation;
5. Behavior;
6. Diagnosis (mental or physical);
7. Sobriety;
8. Skills acquisition;
9. Education;
10. Court; or
11. Trial Home Visit (THV)

Case Staffing

Case staffing is a systematic and frequent review of all case information with safety, stability, permanency, and well-being as driving forces for case activities.

Protective Factors

Protective factors are characteristics in families that, when present, increase the safety, stability, permanency, and well-being of children and families. Protective factors are directly connected to the strengths of the family and may be used as a resource to learn new skills and solve problems.

Forms and Tools

- [Child Welfare Information Gateway- Protective Factors](#)
- In-Home Risk and Safety Reassessment- Available in the case management system
- [IN Guidebook](#)
- Family Functional Assessment (FFA) Field Guide- Available on the [Indiana Practice Model SharePoint](#)
- Initial Family Risk Assessment- Available in the case management system
- [Protective Factors to Promote Well-Being and Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect](#)

Related Policies

- [5.07 Child and Family Team \(CFT\) Meetings](#)
- [5.10 Family Services](#)
- [5.12 Closing a CHINS Case](#)

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LEGAL REFERENCES

N/A

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PRACTICE GUIDANCE- DCS POLICY 7.11

Practice Guidance is designed to assist DCS staff with thoughtful and practical direction on how to effectively integrate tools and social work practice into daily case management in an effort to achieve positive family and child outcomes. Practice Guidance is separate from Policy.

Determining Overall Risk Level

Research has demonstrated that for the Risk Reassessment, a single index best categorizes risk for future maltreatment. Unlike the Initial Family Risk Assessment that contains separate indices for risk of neglect and risk of abuse, the Risk Reassessment is comprised of a single index.

Risk-Based Case Open/Close Guide	
Risk Level	Recommendation
Low	Close, if there are no unresolved safety threats
Moderate	Close, if there are no unresolved safety threats
High	Case remains open
Very High	Case remains open

Family Functional Assessment

The Family Functional Assessment (FFA) tool may be a valuable tool when working with self-identified Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, and Asexual (LGBTQIA+) youth. Safety assessment questions that may be helpful in determining the safety of LGBTQIA+ youth can be found in the FFA tool.

Risk Reassessment

The Risk Reassessment is a part of the In-Home Risk and Safety Reassessment and is used by the FCM throughout the life of the permanency case to determine the presence of risk factors that indicate the likelihood of future child maltreatment. The Risk Reassessment also assists FCMs in evaluating whether risk levels have decreased, remained the same, or increased since the completion of the Initial Family Risk Assessment. In addition to the Risk Reassessment, FCMs should reference the Family Functional Assessment (FFA) Field Guide when working with self-identified LGBTQIA+ youth.

The Risk Reassessment determines whether the case should remain open or be closed. For cases that will remain open, the Reassessment includes updating the Case Plan/Prevention Plan based on current needs and strengths.

Safety Reassessment

A Safety Reassessment is a part of the In-Home Risk and Safety Reassessment, and it should be used for open cases in which a child is in the home and new information or circumstances require that the safety of the child be assessed. The Safety Reassessment should be used to determine whether the child may remain in the home, with or without protective interventions, and to identify the specific interventions that should be initiated or maintained. If there are no safety threats, consider recommending case closure with supervisory approval. If any safety threats exist, the case must remain open until safety threats are resolved.

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