

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE MANUAL	
	Chapter 7: In-Home Services	Effective Date: July 1, 2014
	Section 1: Child at Imminent Risk of Removal	Version: 4

POLICY

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will make an initial determination as to whether an individual child is at imminent risk of placement and therefore a candidate for kinship care/foster care. DCS will redetermine imminent risk every 180 days.

DCS defines a child at imminent risk of placement as a child less than 18 years of age who reasonably may be expected to face out-of-home placement in the near future as a result of at least one (1) of the following:

1. Abuse or neglect;
2. Emotional or mental disturbance; or
3. Family conflict so extensive that reasonable control of the child is not exercised.

Code References

[42 U.S.C. 5101 § 106\(6\) \(2\) \(a\) \(v\)](#)

PROCEDURE

[REVISED] The Family Case Manager (FCM) will:

1. Make an initial determination that a child is at imminent risk for removal with a substantiation of abuse or neglect by the DCS as documented by an approved substantiated Assessment of Alleged Child Abuse or Neglect SF113/CW0311.

CHINS:

- a. Complete a Risk reassessment in Management Gateway for Indiana's Kids (MaGIK);
- b. Document via the Case Plan in MaGIK on the case identification screen that:
 - 1.) The child is at imminent risk of removal from the home environment and absent effective preservation services, the Department will petition the court to place the child in foster care; or
 - 2.) The child is not at imminent risk of removal from the home environment; or
 - 3.) The child is no longer at imminent risk of removal from the home environment due to the success of preservation services.

Informal Adjustment (IA) Cases:

- a. Initial determination of imminent risk for removal should be documented on the IA form in QUEST and again, on the IA history screen in MaGIK. The Family Case Manager (FCM) will document that:
 - 1.) The child is at imminent risk of removal from the home environment and absent effective preservation services, the Department will petition the court to place the child in foster care; or
 - 2.) The child is not at imminent risk of removal from the home environment; or
 - 3.) The child is no longer at imminent risk of removal from the home environment due to the success of preservation services.
2. Make a redetermination of imminent risk of removal. The redetermination will be completed on every child with an open case type of IA or In home CHINS within six (6) months of the initial determination. Redeterminations will be conducted as follows:

CHINS:

- a. Complete a Risk reassessment in MaGIK;
- b. Document via the Case Plan in MaGIK on the case identification screen that:
 - 1.) The child is at imminent risk of removal from the home environment and absent effective preservation services, the Department will petition the court to place the child in foster care; or
 - 2.) The child is not at imminent risk of removal from the home environment; or
 - 3.) The child is no longer at imminent risk of removal from the home environment due to the success of preservation services.

For IA Cases:

- a. Redeterminations of imminent risk of removal should be documented on the Progress on IA (formally the 5-month report) via the IA history screen. The Family Case Manager (FCM) will document that:
 - 1.) The child is at imminent risk of removal from the home environment and absent effective preservation services, the Department will petition the court to place the child in foster care; or
 - 2.) The child is not at imminent risk of removal from the home environment; or
 - 3.) The child is no longer at imminent risk of removal from the home environment due to the success of preservation services.

PRACTICE GUIDANCE

Definition:

Imminent Risk

Immediate threat of injury or harm to a child when no interventions have occurred to protect the child.

FORMS AND TOOLS

1. Assessment of Alleged Child Abuse or Neglect (SF 113/CW0311) – Available in MaGIK
2. Risk Assessment – Available in MaGIK
3. Risk Reassessment – Available in MaGIK
4. Program of Informal Adjustment – (IA-R3(091109)) – Available in QUEST
5. Progress Report on Program of Informal Adjustment - (SF 54336) – Available in MaGIK
6. Intake Officers Report of Preliminary Inquiry and Investigation – Available in MaGIK
7. Case Plan (SF2956/CW0046) – Available in MaGIK
8. **[NEW]** [IN Guidebook](#)

RELATED INFORMATION

[REVISED] Outlining the population

Candidates for out-of-home placements/children at imminent risk for removal include:

1. Child residing in his/her own home;
2. Children on the run from their home or privately-paid facility; and
3. Children placed with the non-custodial parents who have NOT been removed from their home via a court order.
4. Child who is Homeless

Children at imminent risk for removal do not include:

1. Children in out-of-home placement care;
2. Children placed in licensed foster homes, unlicensed relative homes; and
3. Children on a trial home visit for the initial six (6) months, and/or children for whom an extension of the trial home visit has been granted by the court.

[NEW] Risk Reassessment

Risk Reassessment is an assessment tool used by the FCM throughout the life of the child welfare 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 have increased since the completion of the initial Risk Assessment. In addition to the Risk Reassessment Tool, FCMs should reference the [Family Functional Assessment \(FFA\)](#) tool when working with self-identified Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) youth. Risk assessment questions that may be helpful in determining the risk factors for LGBTQ youth can be found in the FFA tool.

Note: Risk Reassessments are completed for the biological or family of origin unless TPR is finalized. If TPR is finalized, Risk Reassessments are not required.