

Chapter 2

DEVELOP PRESENT DANGER SAFETY PLAN

2-1. Definition of Present Danger Plan. A Present Danger Safety Plan is a written agreement that describes short-term safety actions that will control the present danger to a child while allowing time for information collection and analysis. When an investigator or case manager encounters a child in present danger, he/she must implement a present danger plan or modify an existing safety plan with the changes going into effect immediately. See CFOP 170-1, Chapter 2, paragraph 2-2, for the definition of Present Danger.

2-2. During an Investigation.

a. The investigator will complete a present danger assessment per requirements in CFOP 170-5, Chapter 13.

b. Given the lack of validated (i.e., corroborated) information when present danger is identified, the investigator will create a present danger plan with the family that directly manages the identified threat and is intended for short-term use only (i.e., until the FFA-Investigation can be completed, and a safety determination is made).

c. A supervisor must approve the continuation of a present danger plan that needs to be in effect for longer than 14 days at the 14th day and thereafter, every 7 days.

d. The child welfare professional will only include individuals as a safety services management provider in a Present Danger Safety Plan that have been:

(1) Approved as an informal Safety Plan provider.

(2) Approved as a family-made arrangement.

(3) Are employed by an agency that has an agreement or contract with the Lead Agency to provide safety management services.

e. The investigator will provide a signed copy of the present danger plan to the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) or caregiver responsible for the child prior to leaving the home.

f. The investigator must obtain signatures from any informal safety management providers in the plan.

g. The investigator will upload a copy of the plan with all required signatures to the child's record in FSFN.

2-3. During On-going Case Management.

a. If a case manager suspects a child to be in present danger, they must take immediate actions to determine the need for Safety Plan modifications.

b. During on-going services, present danger may result from a number of circumstances including, but not limited to, the following:

(1) A Safety Plan provider is unable to show-up at the child's home as scheduled and there is no other provider immediately available.

(2) There is an unforeseen and significant change in family circumstances or dynamics.

c. If the case manager learns new information that indicates a child is in present danger and the case manager is not at the child's home when the information is learned, the case manager will take immediate actions to assess whether the child is in present danger and will modify the Safety Plan accordingly.

d. When the case manager determines a child is in present danger while at the home, the case manager will not leave the home until Safety Plan modifications are in place. A case manager will request the assistance of an investigator when a child needs to be sheltered. If the safety of the child and/or case manager is threatened by remaining in the home, the case manager may temporarily remove the child to a safer location until law enforcement or an investigator arrives on the scene.

e. If modifications to an existing in-home Safety Plan will not be sufficient to manage a newly identified present danger threat, the case manager will take the next least intrusive actions necessary to provide for child safety.

f. The case manager will make a report to the Hotline when the case manager suspects that there are new incidents of harm as defined in CFOP 170-4, Child Maltreatment Index. An insufficient Safety Plan or safety management provider do not in-and-of-themselves constitute a new incident of harm.

g. The case manager will provide a signed copy of a modified Safety Plan to the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) and all safety management providers in the plan. Chapter 4 of this operating procedure describes the requirements for sharing copies of separate safety plans developed for the survivor and perpetrator.

h. The case manager will document a Present Danger Assessment when they have evaluated a present danger threat and made a determination that there is not a suspected incident of maltreatment, within two business days of their evaluation.

2-4. Supervisor Consultation and Approval.

a. Supervisors are required to complete their review of a Present Danger Safety Plan as soon as possible but no later than two business days after the plan's development or modification. A Supervisor Consultation will be provided and documented to affirm each of the following:

(1) The child welfare professional has clearly described in the Present Danger Assessment the child, caregiver(s) and home condition(s) observed during the initial contact with the family.

(2) The child welfare professional identified present danger and described the danger in the Present Danger Assessment and Safety Plan documents to be immediate, significant, and clearly observable.

(3) The present danger plan is effective in managing the present danger threat.

(4) For all Present Danger Safety Plans in which the child either remains in the home or a family arrangement is used:

(a) A 2nd Tier consultation must occur as outlined in CFOP 170-5, Chapter 27.

(b) Child welfare professional supervisors are required to consult with a manager, manager designee, or consultative team.

b. When the child welfare professional has identified Present Danger, the supervisor will complete the following actions:

(1) Review the effectiveness of the Present Danger Safety Plan.

(2) Determine whether the child welfare professional is managing the Safety Plan adequately.

(3) Review whether the child welfare professional is demonstrating due diligence in gathering sufficient information to inform completion of the initial or ongoing Family Functioning Assessment and/or Progress Update.

c. For “provisionally certified” child protective investigators the supervisor will conduct a follow-up consultation every 14 days until the Family Functioning Assessment is completed.

d. For “provisionally certified” case management, staff the supervisor will conduct a follow-up consultation every 14 days until the ongoing Family Functioning Assessment or Progress Update is completed.

2-5. FSFN Documentation.

a. A copy of the new or modified Safety Plan must be attached to the FSFN Safety Plan Page within two business days of its creation. Requirements for the documentation of two safety plans in cases involving intimate partner violence are provided in Chapter 4 of this operating procedure.

b. The child welfare professional must document the Present Danger Assessment Page in FSFN within two business days of the completed assessment.

c. The supervisor will document all consultations around present danger in FSFN within two business days of the consultation.

d. The following FSFN resources are located on the FSFN “How Do I Guide” page:

(1) “Supervisor Consultation – How Do I Guide.”

(2) “Safety Plan User Guide.”