

Chapter 3

DEVELOP IMPENDING DANGER SAFETY PLAN

3-1. Definition of Impending Danger Plan. An Impending Danger Plan is a plan to control and manage the specific caregiver behaviors, emotions and/or other family dynamics at the times they occur in order to protect the child. The Impending Danger Plan must protect an unsafe child from the danger threat(s) using the least intrusive safety management options possible, while the family receives interventions and treatment to enhance protective capacities through a case plan.

3-2. Required In-Home Safety Analysis.

a. Sufficient information must be gathered and assessed in order to:

- (1) Describe the six information domains for each caregiver responsible.
- (2) Identify the existence of danger threats.
- (3) Identify specific caregiver protective capacities that are lacking.
- (4) Complete a Safety Analysis.

b. Before a child welfare professional establishes a safety plan in response to impending danger, he/she will complete the Safety Analysis criteria in order to determine the feasibility of an in-home safety plan given household conditions and dynamics.

c. Five standardized criteria must be met in order to establish an in-home safety plan. These criteria are not applied at the time of developing a present danger plan unless there is already sufficient information known about the family to develop or update the information domains. The criteria are:

(1) The parent(s)/legal guardians are willing for an in-home safety plan to be developed and implemented and have demonstrated that they will cooperate with all identified safety service providers.

(2) The home environment is calm and consistent enough for an in-home safety plan to be implemented and for safety service providers to be in the home safely.

(3) Safety services are available at a sufficient level and to the degree necessary in order to manage the way in which impending danger is manifested in the home.

(4) An in-home safety plan and the use of in-home safety services can sufficiently manage impending danger without the need for results of scheduled professional evaluations.

(5) The parent(s)/legal guardian(s) have a physical location in which to implement an in-home safety plan.

d. The completed Safety Analysis must provide sufficient information to support the analysis of each of the five criteria. Refer to Appendix A of this operating procedure for a more in-depth discussion of Safety Analysis criteria and examples that demonstrate when the family behaviors or conditions for an in-home safety plan are present or not.

3-3. Safety Management Conference. In response to creating or making substantial modifications to an impending danger plan, the child welfare professional responsible will conduct a Safety Management Conference with the parent(s)/legal guardian(s), members of the family's resource network, and other safety service providers.

a. Use of a family team meeting is one method for conducting a safety management conference.

b. When the dynamics of intimate partner violence are present, the child welfare professional must conduct separate Safety Management Conferences in order to develop the two safety plans per requirements in Chapter 4 of this operating procedure. The perpetrator must not attend the safety management conference to develop the Confidential Safety Plan with the survivor. Information shared by the survivor in the meeting to develop the Confidential Safety Plan must not be shared with the perpetrator.

(1) The person responsible for facilitating the safety management conference must have received training about power and control in abusive relationships.

(2) The child welfare professional responsible for planning the Safety Management Conference must consider meeting logistics to support the safety of participants and facilitators.

(3) An advocate employed by a certified domestic violence center should be present at the conference if the adult victim of domestic violence agrees.

c. Participants at the Safety Management Conference will review and discuss the following:

(1) Current family dynamics and conditions relative to criteria for an in-home safety plan or Conditions for Return.

(2) Whether each of the specific components of the safety plan are working dependably including the visitation plan, whether they are the least restrictive action given current family dynamics, and what modifications are needed.

(3) Options for plan actions or modifications needed, eliciting family resources and solutions.

(4) Safety management actions including the visitation plan with the child's parent(s)/legal guardian(s) and siblings when the child or a parent/legal guardian is not in the home.

d. The child welfare professional will utilize caution in domestic violence cases when sharing information with the perpetrator of domestic violence and/or considering input from the domestic violence perpetrator, especially regarding decisions about return of the child to the home.

e. After the Safety Management Conference, the child welfare professional responsible will follow up with CLS when necessary to seek court approval of modifications when a safety plan is part of a court order.

3-4. Related Safety Plan Responsibilities.

a. The investigator will develop an Impending Danger Plan in collaboration with the family during a Safety Management Conference.

(1) As appropriate, the plan may incorporate some or all of the components of the Present Danger Plan into the Impending Danger Safety Plan.

(2) Any out-of-home safety plan involving placement with a relative/non-relative caregiver must include an approved Unified Home Study per 65C-28.012, F.A.C., and a court order to shelter the child.

b. The child welfare professional responsible will review with all safety management providers and the parent(s)/legal guardian(s):

(1) Expectations for continued parent(s)/legal guardian(s) involvement and responsibility.

(2) Any protective actions that the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) may still fulfill.

c. The child welfare professional will communicate with all safety service providers to explain how they will monitor the plan and what actions to take if a provider believes there is a need for plan modifications.

d. A safety plan will remain in effect as long as a case remains open with case plan goal of “strengthen and maintain” or “reunification” and parent(s)/legal guardian(s) do not have the protective capacity necessary to protect the child from identified danger threats.

3-5. Supervisor Consultations and Approval.

a. The supervisor will conduct a follow-up consultation as soon as possible but no later than 24 hours after the establishment or modification of an impending danger safety plan to review the sufficiency of the safety plan.

b. Through follow-up case consultation, the supervisor is required to affirm that the safety plan is reasonable and adequate based on the following:

(1) The Safety Analysis must clearly describe how each of the specific conditions for an in-home safety plan is present or not.

(2) The child welfare professional is able to describe how impending danger manifests in the home.

(3) The child welfare professional is providing the least intrusive safety actions including reasonable efforts and documenting them in the Safety Analysis Summary in the FFA.

(4) The parent(s)/legal guardian(s) were involved in the analysis and planning.

(5) It is clear how the safety plan will control and manage impending danger.

(6) The safety plan is logical and justifies how the child will be protected.

(7) If the plan involves relocation or placement of the child out of the home, the Conditions for Return are appropriate and clearly delineated.

c. When Impending Danger has been identified through completion of the Family Functioning Assessment-Investigation, the supervisor will complete weekly “follow-up” consultations until the case is transferred to case management. The supervisor must determine that the investigator is demonstrating due diligence in preparing the case for transfer to case management. The weekly consultations will review the sufficiency of the Impending Danger Safety Plan and determine that the investigator is managing the plan adequately.

3-6. CCWIS Documentation.

a. The child welfare professional and his/her supervisor are responsible for ensuring that the safety plan in CCWIS is the current, active, and signed version of the safety plan. The child welfare professional will upload a new or updated, signed Impending Danger Safety Plan to the CCWIS Safety Plan Page within two business days of its creation or modification.

b. The child welfare professional will terminate the present danger safety plan in CCWIS when he/she is creating an impending danger plan or when a child has been determined to be safe.

c. The child welfare professional with primary responsibility for the case shall document the safety management conference under "Safety Management Staffing" within the CCWIS Meeting Page per CFOP 170-1, Chapter 12: Case Note and Meetings Documentation.

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

(1) "Supervisor Consultation – How Do I Guide."

(2) "Safety Plan – How Do I Guide."

