

CALIFORNIA  
SDM® SAFETY ASSESSMENT

r: 11/17

Referral Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Referral #: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Worker: \_\_\_\_\_

Is either caregiver Native American or a person with Indian ancestry? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Parent Not Available ☐ Parent Unsure

Date of Assessment: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Assessment Type: ☐ Initial ☐ Review/update ☐ Referral closing/case closing

Names of Children Assessed: (If more than six children are assessed, add additional names and numbers on reverse side.)

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 6. _____ |

Are there additional names on reverse? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Household Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Were there allegations in this household? ☐ Yes ☐ No

**Factors Influencing Child Vulnerability** (Conditions resulting in child's inability to protect self; select all that apply to any child.)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Age 0–5 years                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Diminished mental capacity (e.g., developmental delay, nonverbal)         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Significant diagnosed medical or mental disorder | <input type="checkbox"/> Diminished physical capacity (e.g., non-ambulatory, limited use of limbs) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not readily accessible to community oversight    |  |

**SECTION 1: SAFETY THREATS**

Assess household for each of the following safety threats. Indicate whether currently available information results in reason to believe a safety threat is present. Select all that apply.

Yes No

- |                       |                       |  |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | 1. Caregiver caused serious physical harm to the child or made a plausible threat to cause serious physical harm in the current investigation, as indicated by:<br><input type="checkbox"/> Serious injury or abuse to the child other than accidental.<br><input type="checkbox"/> Caregiver fears he/she will maltreat the child.<br><input type="checkbox"/> Threat to cause harm or retaliate against the child.<br><input type="checkbox"/> Domestic violence likely to injure child.<br><input type="checkbox"/> Excessive discipline or physical force.<br><input type="checkbox"/> Drug-/alcohol-exposed infant. |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | 2. Child sexual abuse is suspected, AND circumstances suggest that the child's safety may be of immediate concern.   |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | 3. Caregiver does not meet the child's immediate needs for supervision, food, clothing, and/or medical or mental health care.  |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | 4. The physical living conditions are hazardous and immediately threatening to the health and/or safety of the child.  |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | 5. Caregiver describes or speaks to the child in predominantly negative terms or acts toward or in the presence of the child in negative ways AND these actions result in severe psychological/emotional harm, leading to the child being a danger to self or others.  |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | 6. Caregiver is unable OR unwilling to protect the child from serious harm or threatened harm by others. This may include physical abuse, sexual abuse, or neglect.  |

Yes No

- ☐ ☐ 7. Caregiver's explanation for the injury to the child is questionable or inconsistent with the type of injury, AND the nature of the injury suggests that the child's safety may be of immediate concern.
- ☐ ☐ 8. The family refuses access to the child, or there is reason to believe that the family is about to flee.
- ☐ ☐ 9. Current circumstances, combined with information that the caregiver has or may have previously maltreated a child in his/her care, suggest that the child's safety may be of immediate concern based on the severity of the previous maltreatment or the caregiver's response to the previous incident.
- ☐ ☐ 10. Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**Safety Decision: If no safety threats are present, complete the safety decision below.**

- ☐ Safe. No safety threats were identified at this time. Based on currently available information, there are no children likely to be in immediate danger of serious harm. Complete the investigation and the risk assessment as required.

**SECTION 1A: CAREGIVER COMPLICATING BEHAVIORS**

If yes is selected for any safety threats above, indicate whether any of the following behaviors are present. These are conditions that make it more difficult or complicated to create safety for a child but do not by themselves create a safety threat. These behaviors must be considered when assessing for and planning to mitigate safety threats with a safety plan. Select all that apply to the household.

- ☐ Substance abuse      ☐ Domestic violence      ☐ Mental health      ☐ Developmental/cognitive impairment
- ☐ Physical condition      ☐ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION 2: HOUSEHOLD STRENGTHS AND PROTECTIVE ACTIONS**

**Household Strengths:** These are resources and conditions that increase the likelihood or ability to create safety for a child but in and of themselves do not fully address the safety threats.

**Protective Actions:** These are specific actions, taken by one of the child's current caregivers or by the child, that mitigate identified safety threats in the household.

Household strengths and protective actions should be assessed, considered, and built upon when creating a safety plan. *Select all that apply to the household.*

	<b>Household Strengths (Select all that apply)</b>	<b>Protective Actions (Select all that apply)</b>
Caregiver problem solving	<input type="checkbox"/> At least one caregiver identifies and acknowledges the problem/safety threat(s) and suggests possible solutions.	<input type="checkbox"/> At least one caregiver articulates specific strategies that, in the past, have been at least partially successful in mitigating the identified safety threat(s), and the caregiver has used or could use these strategies in the current situation.
Caregiver support network	<input type="checkbox"/> At least one caregiver has at least one supportive relationship with someone who is willing to be a part of his/her support network. <input type="checkbox"/> At least one non-offending caregiver exists and is willing and able to protect the child from future harm. <input type="checkbox"/> At least one caregiver is willing to work with the agency to mitigate safety threats, including allowing the caseworker(s) access to the child.	<input type="checkbox"/> At least one caregiver has a stable support network that is aware of the safety threat(s), has been or is responding to the threat(s), and is willing to provide protection for the child.

	<b>Household Strengths (Select all that apply)</b>	<b>Protective Actions (Select all that apply)</b>
Child problem solving	<input type="checkbox"/> At least one child is emotionally/ intellectually capable of acting to protect him/herself from a safety threat.	<input type="checkbox"/> At least one child, in the past or currently, acts in ways that protect him/herself from a safety threat(s).
Child support network	<input type="checkbox"/> At least one child is aware of his/her support network members and knows how to contact these individuals when needed.	<input type="checkbox"/> At least one child has successfully pursued support, in the past or currently, from a member of his/her support network, and that person(s) was able to help address the safety threat and keep the child safe.
Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

### SECTION 3: IN-HOME PROTECTIVE INTERVENTIONS

If safety threats have been identified in the household and after consideration of child vulnerabilities, household strengths, and protective actions, it is determined that a safety plan will allow the child to remain in the home, the safety decision is "safe with plan." Select the decision below. If a safety plan that would allow the child to remain in the home safely cannot be created, go to Section 4.

#### SAFETY DECISION

☐ Safe with plan. One or more safety threats are present; however, the child can safely remain in home with a safety plan. In-home protective interventions have been initiated through a safety plan and the child will remain in the home as long as the safety interventions mitigate the safety threats. Select all in-home interventions used in the safety plan.

- ☐ 1. Intervention or direct services by worker. (DO NOT include the investigation itself.)
- ☐ 2. Use of family, neighbors, or other individuals in the community as safety resources.
- ☐ 3. Use of community agencies or services as safety resources.
- ☐ 4. Use of tribal, Indian community service agency, and/or ICWA program resources.
- ☐ 5. Have the caregiver appropriately protect the victim from the alleged perpetrator.
- ☐ 6. Have the alleged perpetrator leave the home, either voluntarily or in response to legal action.
- ☐ 7. Have the non-offending caregiver move to a safe environment with the child.
- ☐ 8. Legal action planned or initiated—child remains in the home.
- ☐ 9. Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

### SECTION 4: PLACEMENT INTERVENTIONS

#### Safety Decision

☐ Unsafe. One or more safety threats are present, and placement is the only protective intervention possible for one or more children. Without placement, one or more children will likely be in danger of immediate or serious harm. Check one response only.

- ☐ 10. Have the caregiver voluntarily place the child outside the home, consistent with WIC § 11400 (o) and (p).
- ☐ 11. Child placed in protective custody because interventions 1–10 do not adequately ensure the child's safety.