

# Reunification SDM Tool - New Version

A new version of the Reunification SDM tool is implemented in SSIS version 15.3. The Reunification tool evaluates risk, visitation engagement and safety issues. The results are used to reach a placement permanency recommendation and to guide decisions about whether or not to return a child(ren) home. This new version of the tool includes conceptual, structural and verbiage changes from the previous version. There are no new business rules around the use of this new tool version, all existing business rules still apply.

The following are screenshots and descriptions of the new version of the tool, including the various areas and tabs within the tool.

## Main Screen

The screenshot displays the main interface of the Reunification SDM Tool. On the left is a navigation tree for 'Reunification demo, SSIS Case #2016'. The main area features a 'Decision Tool' table and several form sections for data entry.

Decision Tool	Assessed By	Tool Status	Tool Version	Assessment Date	Created Date	Finalized Date
Risk Assessment - 09/02/2014	Hodgson, Pam	Complete	Revision 2	09/02/2014	08/04/2015	09/03/2014
Safety Assessment - 08/18/2014	Hodgson, Pam	Complete	Revision 1	08/18/2014	08/04/2015	09/03/2014
Reunification Assessment - 02/20/2015	Hodgson, Pam	Complete	Revision 2	02/20/2015	08/04/2015	

Below the table, the 'Decision Tool' is set to 'Reunification Assessment'. The 'Assessed By' is 'Hodgson, Pam' and the 'Assessment Date' is '2/20/2015'. The 'Tool Status' is 'Complete' and the 'Scored Risk' is 'Moderate'. The 'Safety Decision' is 'Conditionally safe'. The 'Primary Caregiver' is 'Borden, Lizzie' and the 'Secondary Caregiver' is 'Meyers, Mike'.

The 'Children' section lists three children with their visitation and recommendation status:

Children	Visitation (* indicates override)	Recommendation (* indicates override)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Borden, Baby	Unacceptable	Initiate legal permanency plan petition
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Borden, Suzie Jane	Acceptable	Return home
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Borden, Tiny	Acceptable	Return home

The 'Risk Reassessment' tab is active, showing the following risk levels and engagement metrics:

R1. Risk level from most recent investigation/assessment (after override)	High	4
R2a. Primary caregiver's progress toward case plan goals	Frequent but not yet consistent demonstration/active engagement	-1
R2b. Secondary caregiver's progress toward case plan goals	Consistent demonstration/strong engagement	-2
R3. Has there been a new screened in report with a finding of need of protective services or determination during the review period?	No	0

At the bottom, there are 'Override' and 'Override risk level' fields, and an 'Action' dropdown menu.

The main screen includes the Decision Tool grid, header information and the tabs for Risk, Visitation, Safety, Recommendation Overrides and Override Comments.

## Header Information

Decision Tool:	Reunification Assessment	<input type="button" value="Generate Tool"/>
Assessed By:	Hodgson, Pam	Assessment Date: 2/20/2015
Tool Status:	Complete	Finalize Date:
Scored Risk:	Moderate	Override:
Safety Decision:	Conditionally safe	
Primary Caregiver:	Borden, Lizzie	Secondary Caregiver: Meyers, Mike
Children	Visitation (* indicates override)	Recommendation (* indicates override)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Borden, Baby	Unacceptable	Initiate legal permanency plan petition
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Borden, Suzie Jane	Acceptable	Return home
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Borden, Tiny	Acceptable	Return home

The header contains general information about a specific instance of the tool. It will also display the various decisions based on how the tool questions are answered in each of the tabs. The header includes:

- By whom and when the assessment was performed
- Tool status and when it was finalized (if finalized)
- Risk and Safety decisions
- Caregiver information
- Visitation and Recommendation decisions for each selected child

**Note:** The worker can override visitation or recommendation decision for any child. Any override is indicated by asterisk in the children panel.

## Risk Reassessment Tab

Risk Reassessment	Visitation Plan Engagement	Safety Factors	Safety Response	Recommendation and Override	Override Comments
<a href="#">R1. Risk level from most recent investigation/assessment (after override)</a>	High				4
<a href="#">R2a. Primary caregiver's progress toward case plan goals</a>	Frequent but not yet consistent demonstration/active engagement				-1
<a href="#">R2b. Secondary caregiver's progress toward case plan goals</a>	Consistent demonstration/strong engagement				-2
<a href="#">R3. Has there been a new screened in report with a finding of need of protective services or determination during the review period?</a>	No				0
Override	None				
Override risk level					

This tab will determine the risk index based on the risk reassessment factors. The worker is allowed to override the calculated risk level if the tool has a scored risk level.

**Note:** Question R2a and R2b are the same question, where R2a is answered for the Primary Caregiver and R2b is answered for the Secondary Caregiver. The score for the caregiver with the worst progress toward their goals is used when determining the risk level.

## Visitation Plan Engagement Tab

Risk Reassessment	Visitation Plan Engagement	Safety Factors	Safety Response	Recommendation and Override	Override Comments
Borden, Baby					
<input type="checkbox"/> Child does not have a visitation plan					
<a href="#">Attendance</a>		Consistent			
<a href="#">Quality of face to face visits</a>		Limited			
Visitation override type		None			
Visitation override					
Borden, Suzie Jane					
<input type="checkbox"/> Child does not have a visitation plan					
<a href="#">Attendance</a>		Routine			
<a href="#">Quality of face to face visits</a>		Adequate			
Visitation override type		None			
Visitation override					
Borden, Tiny					
<input type="checkbox"/> Child does not have a visitation plan					
<a href="#">Attendance</a>		Consistent			
<a href="#">Quality of face to face visits</a>		Strong			
Visitation override type		None			
Visitation override					

This tab allows the worker to enter information about each child's visitation plan. The decision for each child displays in the header and indicates whether visitation is acceptable or unacceptable. The worker may override the calculated decision for any child.

**Note:** If the decision for a child is overridden, the decision in the header will indicate this with an asterisk.

## Safety Factors Tab

Risk Reassessment	Visitation Plan Engagement	<b>Safety Factors</b>	Safety Response	Recommendation and Override	Override Comments
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No safety factors apply

[1. Caregiver current behavior is violent or out of control](#)

[2. Caregiver describes or acts toward child in predominantly negative terms or has extremely unrealistic expectations](#)

[3. Caregiver caused serious physical harm to the child or has made a plausible threat to cause serious physical harm.](#)

[4. The family refuses access to the child, there is reason to believe that the family is about to flee and/or the child's whereabouts cannot be ascertained.](#)

[5. Caregiver has not, or will not, provide supervision necessary to protect child from potentially serious harm.](#)

[6. Caregiver is unwilling, or is unable, to meet the child's immediate needs for food, clothing, shelter, and/or medical or mental health care.](#)

[7. Caregiver has previously maltreated a child and the severity of the maltreatment, or the caregiver's response to the previous incident\(s\), suggests that child safety may be an immediate concern.](#)

[8. Child is fearful of caregiver\(s\), other family members, or other people living in or having access to the home.](#)

[9. The child's physical living conditions are hazardous and immediately threatening](#)

[10. Child sexual abuse is suspected and circumstances suggest that child safety may be an immediate concern.](#)

[11. Caregiver\(s\)' drug or alcohol use seriously affects ability to supervise, protect or care for child.](#)

[12. Other safety factor \(Specify\)](#)

Safety factor description

xxx

Safety Assessment is required when risk level is low or moderate and any child's visitation engagement is Acceptable

This tab allows the worker to identify child safety factors in the home to which the child(ren) may be returned.

## Safety Response Tab

Risk Reassessment	Visitation Plan Engagement	Safety Factors	<b>Safety Response</b>	Recommendation and Override	Override Comments
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[1. Use family resources, neighbors, or other individuals in the community as safety resources](#)

[2. Use community agencies or services as safety resources](#)

[3. Have the alleged offender leave the home, either voluntarily or in response to legal action](#)

[4. Have the non-maltreating caregiver move to a safe environment with the child](#)

[5. Other safety response \(Specify\)](#)

[6. Continuation of out-of-home placement services - No appropriate safety response identified to support an in-home safety plan. One or more children would be "unsafe" if returned to the reunification household.](#)

Safety response description

xxx

This tab allows worker to indicate responses that will be used in the reunification home if the child(ren) are returned.

## Recommendation and Override Tab

Risk Reassessment | Visitation Plan Engagement | Safety Factors | Safety Response | Recommendation and Override | Override Comments

Risk Reassessment, Visitation Plan Engagement, and Safety Assessment (if required) must be done in order to score the tool. Check below to score the tool for the first time or to re-score if the tool was modified after initial scoring.

Score tool - calculate recommendation for each child

Borden, Baby

Recommendation override type

Recommendation override

Borden, Suzie Jane

Recommendation override type

Recommendation override

Borden, Tiny

Recommendation override type

Recommendation override

This tab is used to calculate the overall recommendation for each child. The worker may override the calculated recommendation for any child.

**Note:** If the decision for a child is overridden, the decision in the header will indicate this with an asterisk.

## Override Comments Tab

Risk Reassessment | Visitation Plan Engagement | Safety Factors | Safety Response | Recommendation and Override | Override Comments

Comments are required for discretionary overrides. Describe the rationale for a discretionary Risk, Visitation Engagement, or Recommendation decision override.

Override Comments

This tab allows the worker to explain rationale for any and/or all overrides that were selected.

**Note:** Comments are required for discretionary overrides. The system no longer validates that the worker has entered comments via error message. The approver is responsible for reviewing the comment prior to approval.