
Structured Decision Making – Safety Assessment

SSIS (Worker)

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Structured Decision Making – Safety Assessment

A Safety Assessment tool is used to help assess whether a child is likely to be in immediate danger of serious harm and to determine what intervention should be maintained or initiated to provide appropriate protection.

Completion of a Safety Assessment is required for all reports assigned for a Family Assessment or Family Investigation.

Only one household can be assessed per Safety Assessment. When a child’s caregivers do not live together, the child may be a member of two households. Always assess the household of the alleged offender. Workers should assess the other caregiver’s household if there is an allegation of failure to protect or other allegations, or if one or more children were removed and the other caregiver will receive reunification services.

A Safety Assessment should be completed within three working days of making the initial face-to-face contact to assess safety. The assessment should also be completed at any point that an unsafe factor becomes apparent or when an unsafe factor requires removing a child from the home.

Information in the Safety Assessment guides the decision about whether the child may remain in the home with or without safety interventions in place or if they must be removed. Placement decisions should not be made solely on the outcome of the safety assessment. Consultation with supervisory staff and others is necessary.

Three safety decisions can be reached with this tool:

- Safe
- Conditionally Safe
- Unsafe

Generating Tool and Setup Menu

The screenshot displays the 'Safety Assessment' tool interface. At the top, there is a dropdown menu for 'Decision Tool' set to 'Safety Assessment', a 'Generate Tool' button, and a logo for 'Evident Change®'. Below this, there are several input fields: 'Assessed By' (dropdown), 'Assessment Date' (calendar icon), 'Tool Status' (text input), and 'Finalize Date' (calendar icon). A 'Safety Decision' field is also present. Further down, there are 'Primary Caregiver' and 'Secondary Caregiver' dropdown menus. At the bottom, a section titled 'Children' contains a list of two children: 'Long, Casey' and 'Long, Angela', both with checked checkboxes.

To Generate a Safety Assessment

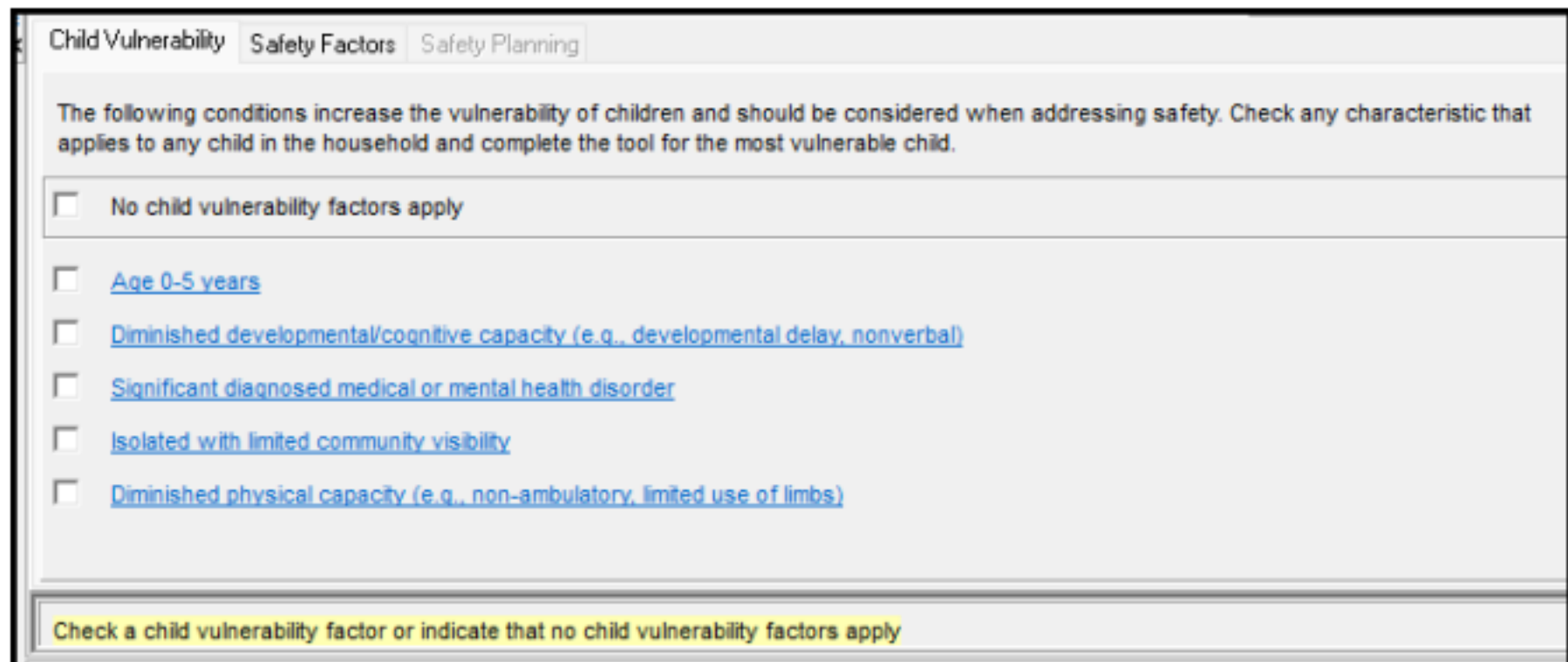
1. Select the **Decision Tools** folder in the Tree View of the desired workgroup.
2. From an **Action** menu, select **New Decision Tool**.
3. Select **Safety Assessment** in the **Decision Tool** field using the drop-down menu.
4. Select **Generate Tool**.

Setup Menu

Field/Button Labels	Use/Description
Decision Tool	This field is view only after the tool has been generated.
Assessed By	This field will autofill to the worker generating the tool. Workers can select a different assessor if appropriate by using the drop-down menu associated with this field.
Assessment Date	Workers will use the date picker to select the date of the assessment. The Safety Assessment tool should be completed no more than 3 working days from the initial face-to-face contact with the family.
Tool Status	This field is view only. The system will select the current Continuous Placement for the child/youth when the Review record is created.
Finalize Date	The tool will finalize either when a workgroup is changed (i.e. from Assessment to Case Management) or when the workgroup is closed.
Safety Decision	When the tool has been completed, this field will autofill and will indicate Safe , Conditionally Safe , or Unsafe .
Primary Caregiver	Select the primary caregiver from the drop-down menu. Participants aged 14 and older that are added to the workgroup will be available to choose from in the drop-down.
Secondary Caregiver	Select the secondary caregiver from the drop-down menu. Participants aged 14 and older that are added to the workgroup will be available to choose from in the drop-down.
Children	Select the children in the household from the children section.

Completing Safety Assessment Tool

Child Vulnerability Tab



Child Vulnerability | Safety Factors | Safety Planning

The following conditions increase the vulnerability of children and should be considered when addressing safety. Check any characteristic that applies to any child in the household and complete the tool for the most vulnerable child.

- No child vulnerability factors apply
- [Age 0-5 years](#)
- [Diminished developmental/cognitive capacity \(e.g., developmental delay, nonverbal\)](#)
- [Significant diagnosed medical or mental health disorder](#)
- [Isolated with limited community visibility](#)
- [Diminished physical capacity \(e.g., non-ambulatory, limited use of limbs\)](#)

Check a child vulnerability factor or indicate that no child vulnerability factors apply

Workers are required to select at least one item on this tab. The Tool Status information messages will appear highlighted in yellow in the message panel at the bottom of the tab; these messages outline the requirements for each tab. For definitions, workers are directed to click the blue hyperlink to access the help text.

Note: For a PDF document with definitions and examples of each field, refer to the **Safety Assessment Definitions** job aid on the [SSIS Worker Documentation](#) page.

Safety Factors Tab

Child Vulnerability Safety Factors Safety Planning

No safety factors apply

[1. Caregiver acts toward the child in negative ways that result in severe psychological/emotional harm.](#)

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

[3. Caregiver's explanation for a child's injury is questionable or inconsistent with the type of injury, AND the nature of the injury suggests that the child may be in immediate danger as a result.](#)

[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 is unable or unwilling to provide supervision necessary to protect child from potentially serious harm.](#)

[6. Caregiver willfully and consistently does not 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 previous incident\(s\), suggests that child safety may be an immediate concern.](#)

[8. The child's physical living conditions are hazardous and immediately threatening, and caregiver will not or has not attempted to adequately resolve the issue.](#)

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

[10. Other safety factor \(specify\):](#)

Safety factor description

Check a safety factor or indicate that no safety factors apply

Workers are required to select at least one item on this tab. If no safety factors apply, then the tool will be marked as complete, and the "Safety Decision" will be marked as "Safe". If "Other" is selected, workers will be required to specify the safety factor in the corresponding text field. If one or more safety factors apply, workers are required to enter a "Safety factor description" in the corresponding text field. Each item contains a hyperlink to access the help text, which includes definitions and examples specific to each item.

Safety Planning Tab

PART A: COMPLICATING FACTORS

Child Vulnerability | Safety Factors | Safety Planning

PART A: COMPLICATING FACTORS

If "Yes" is selected for any safety factors, indicate whether any of the following complicating factors are present. These conditions may make it more difficult or complicated to create safety for the child but do not by themselves constitute safety factors. These factors should be considered when determining whether it is possible to develop a safety plan. Select all that apply to the household.

- [Chemical health](#)
- [Domestic violence](#)
- [Mental/behavioral health](#)
- [Development/cognitive impairment](#)
- [Poverty and/or limited access to necessary resources](#)
- [Physical/mental condition](#)
- Other (specify):
- [No complicating factors apply](#)

Workers are required to select at least one item from Part A. If no complicating factors apply, workers should select "No complicating factors apply". If "Other" is selected, workers will be required to specify the complicating factor in the corresponding text field. Each item contains a hyperlink to access the help text which includes definitions and examples specific to each item.

PART B: PROTECTIVE CAPACITIES

Child Vulnerability | Safety Factors | Safety Planning

PART B: PROTECTIVE CAPACITIES

Select all that apply to at least one caregiver in the household.

- [1. Caregiver has the cognitive, physical, and emotional capacity to participate in safety interventions.](#)
- [2. Caregiver discusses the child's safety and participates, where appropriate, in additional steps intended to enhance safety.](#)
- [3. Other \(specify\):](#)
- No protective capacities apply

Workers are required to select at least one item from Part B. If no protective capacities apply, workers should select "No protective capacities apply". If "Other" is selected, workers will be required to specify the protective capacity in the corresponding text field. Each item contains a hyperlink to access the help text which includes definitions and examples specific to each item.

PART C: SAFETY INTERVENTIONS

Child Vulnerability Safety Factors Safety Planning

PART C: SAFETY INTERVENTIONS

For each factor identified in Section 1, consider the resources available within the family and in the community that might help to keep the child safe. Select each response taken to protect the child and explain below. Describe all safety interventions taken or immediately planned by you or anyone else, and explain how each intervention protects (or protected) each child.

[1. Use the non-offending caregiver, family resources, neighbors, or other individuals in the community as safety resources.](#)

[2. Use culturally appropriate resources \(when available\) or specific community agencies or services as safety resources.](#)

[3. Have the person allegedly causing harm leave the home, either voluntarily or in response to legal action, and/or support the caregiver who is not causing harm in limiting access between the child and the person allegedly causing harm.](#)

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

[5. Other \(specify\):](#)

[6. Have the caregiver\(s\) place the child outside the home through formal voluntary placement in foster care. Note: Include explanation below regarding why responses 1-5 could not be used to keep the child safe.](#)

[7. Legal action must be taken by the agency to place the child outside the home in foster care. Note: Include explanation below regarding why responses 1-5 could not be used to keep the child safe.](#)

Safety response description

Workers are required to select at least one item from Part C. If “Other” is selected, workers will be required to specify the safety intervention in the corresponding text field. Each item contains a hyperlink to access the help text which includes definitions and examples specific to each item. Workers are required to enter a “Safety response description” in the corresponding text field.

Scoring the Safety Assessment Tool

When all required fields have been completed, the tool will automatically fill in the “Safety Decision” with **Safe**, **Conditionally Safe**, or **Unsafe** and the tool will be marked as **complete**.