

Family Service Planning - Incorporating Safety and Risk Assessments

The most important purposes of objectives and tasks in the family service plan is to reduce the future risk of harm and build the caregiver's protective capacities in order to provide the child with a safe and permanent home.

The Family Service Plan (FSP) must link safety threats to diminished protective capacities which allow the threats to exist.

The FSP must work to build diminished protective capacities by bringing about internal change in the caregivers or sustainable external or environmental changes so that the caregiver's protective capacity protects the child from the threat of harm.

The conclusions drawn from a thorough appraisal of a caregiver's overall protective capacities, along with conclusions drawn from the risk assessment, lead to the goals, objectives, and actions in a Family Service Plan.

Controlling the threat by safety interventions in the safety plan without building caregiver protective capacities in the Family Service Plan cannot assure that a similar or new threat won't put the child in danger of serious harm again in the future.

Measuring the degree of a caregiver's protective capacities in conjunction with the risk assessment process helps to assure that the level and intensity of services provided are appropriate.