PRESENT DANGER THREATS

Maltreatment	
Maltreating Now	The parents' mistreatment of the child is occurring right now. The maltreatment will typically be physical, verbal or sexual in nature.
Face/Head	This includes bruises, cuts, abrasions, swelling or any physical manifestation alleged to have occurred as a result of parental/caregiver maltreatment of the child.
Serious Physical Injury	Typically, this would include bone breaks, deep lacerations, burns, diagnosable malnutrition, etc. It also should consider multiple serious injuries to a single child, i.e. severe burn and broken arm.
Premeditated	There must be clear information that what has been alleged is associated with and a result of a deliberate, preconceived plan or thinking which the parent is responsible for and which preceded the maltreatment event. Examples include: a caregiver who puts water in a pan, waits for it to boil and then places a child into the boiling water as a punishment.
Several Victims	This refers to the identification of more than one child who currently is being maltreated. There is no historical context here. For instances of several victims in a chronic neglect situation, the existence of multiple victims does not automatically mean present danger exists. Present danger would be identified based on the acuity of the neglect.
Life Threatening Living Arrangements	This is based on specific information, which indicates that a child's living situation is an immediate threat to his/her safety. This would include the most serious health circumstances: buildings capable of falling in, exposure to elements in bitter weather, fire hazards, electrical wiring exposed, weapons accessible and available, etc.
Unexplained Injuries	This refers to a serious injury which parents and others cannot or will not explain. Generally this information comes from the medical community or other professionals.
Bizarre Cruelty	This qualifies the maltreatment that has been alleged. Such things as locking up children, torture, exaggerated emotional abuse, tying up children, etc.
Sexual Abuse	Report of sexual abuse by a caretaker, and the alleged maltreater has current or immediate access to the child.
Child	
Parent's Viewpoint Of Child Is Bizarre	This is the extreme, not just a negative attitude toward the child. It is consistent with seeing the child as possessed with the devil and this perception is clearly inaccurate.
Vulnerable Child Is Unsupervised or Alone for Extended Period	This present danger threat only applies if the child is truly without care. The selection of this present danger must consider both the child's age, ability to care for themselves and developmental level. It does not apply if the caregiver has arranged for care of the child and has not returned at the agreed upon time. It has to be occurring now (not in the past).
Child Fearful	This does not refer to generalized fear. Children who are described as being obviously afraid of: their present circumstance, the home situation, or a person because of a concern of personal threat would fit this threat.
Child Needs Medical Attention	To be a present danger threat, the medical care required must be significant enough that its absence could seriously affect the child's health and well-being. In other words, if children are not being given routine medical care, it would not constitute a present danger situation. It should have an emergent quality.
Parent	
Parents Are Unable to Perform Parental Responsibilities	This only refers to those parental duties and responsibilities consistent with basic care or assuring safety. This is not associated with whether parents are effective parents generally, but whether their inability to provide basic duties leaves the child in a threatened state.
Parents Described As Dangerous	Information would be considered present danger here when parents are described as physically/verbally imposing and threatening, brandishing weapons, known to be dangerous and aggressive, currently behaving in attacking or aggressive ways, etc.
Parent Out of Control	This threat may include aspects of the preceding threat. However, this allows for capturing emotional upset or depressed people who cannot focus themselves or manage their behavior in ways to properly perform their parental responsibilities. Their actions or lack of actions may not be directed at the children, but may affect them in dangerous ways.
Parent Intoxicated	Applying the present time context, this refers to a parent who is drunk now or strung out on drugs now. The state of the parent's condition is more important than the use of a substance (drinking compared to drunk). The parent/caregivers incapacity has a direct effect on the child's safety.
Spouse Abuse Present	This considers family situations in which both child maltreatment and spouse abuse are reported to be occurring in the present time.
Family Will Flee	This may require some interpretation. Transient families, homes which, are not established; families with limited possessions, etc. are included.

Present Danger: This is an **IMMEDIATE, SIGNIFICANT**, and **CLEARLY OBSERVABLE** threat to a child actively occurring in the present. **** Rule of thumb: if you have to interpret what is going on then it is not likely a present danger.***

PARENTAL PROTECTIVE CAPACITIES

Behavioral Protective Capacities

The caregiver has a history of protecting.	This refers to a person with many experiences and events in which he or she has demonstrated clear and reportable evidence of having been protective.
The caregiver takes action.	This refers to a person who is action-oriented as a human being, not just a caregiver.
The caregiver demonstrates impulse control.	This refers to a person who is deliberate and careful, who acts in managed and self-controlled ways.
The caregiver is physically able.	This refers to people who are sufficiently healthy, mobile, and strong.
The caregiver has/demonstrates adequate skill to fulfill care giving responsibilities.	This refers to the possession and use of skills that are related to being protective.
The caregiver possesses adequate energy.	This refers to the personal sustenance necessary to be ready and able to perform the job of being protective.
The caregiver sets aside her/his needs in favor of a child.	This refers to people who can delay gratifying their own needs, who accept their children's needs as a priority over their own.
The caregiver is adaptive as a caregiver.	This refers to people who adjust and make the best of whatever care giving situation occurs.
The caregiver is assertive as a caregiver.	This refers to being positive and persistent.
The caregiver uses resources necessary to meet the child's basic needs.	This refers to knowing what is needed, getting it, and using it to keep a child safe.
The caregiver supports the child.	This refers to actual, observable sustaining, encouraging and maintaining a child's psychological, physical and social well being.

Emotional Protective Capacities

The caregiver is able to meet own emotional needs.	This refers to satisfying how one feels in reasonable, appropriate ways that are not dependent on or take advantage of others, in particular, children.
The caregiver is emotionally able to intervene to protect the child.	This refers to mental health, emotional energy, and emotional stability.
The caregiver is resilient as a caregiver.	This refers to responsiveness and being able and ready to act promptly.
The caregiver is tolerant as a caregiver.	This refers to acceptance, allowing and understanding, and respect.
The caregiver displays concern for the child and the child's experience and is intent on emotionally protecting the child.	This refers to a sensitivity to understand and feel some sense of responsibility for a child and what the child is going through in such a manner to compel one to comfort and reassure.
The caregiver and child have a strong bond, and the caregiver is clear that the number one priority is the well being of the child.	This refers to a strong attachment that places a child's interest above all else.
The caregiver expresses love, empathy, and sensitivity toward the child; experiences specific empathy with the child's perspective and feelings.	This refers to active affection, compassion, warmth, and sympathy.

Cognitive Protective Capacities

The caregiver plans and articulates a plan to protect the child.	This refers to the thinking ability that is evidenced in a reasonable, well-thought-out plan.
The caregiver is aligned with the child.	This refers to a mental state or an identity with a child.
The caregiver has adequate knowledge to fulfill care giving responsibilities and tasks.	This refers to information and personal knowledge that is specific to care giving that is associated with protection.
The caregiver is reality-oriented, perceives reality accurately.	This refers to mental awareness and accuracy about one's surroundings; correct perceptions of what is happening; and the viability and appropriateness of responses to what is real and factual.
The caregiver has accurate perceptions of the child.	This refers to seeing and understanding a child's capabilities, needs and limitations correctly.
The caregiver understands his/her protective role.	This refers to awareness…knowing there are certain solely owned responsibilities and obligations that are specific to protecting a child.
The caregiver is self-aware as a caregiver.	This refers to sensitivity to one's thinking and actions and their effects on others—on a child.