

# Actions within Safety Plans

## Safety Management

Safety management is the intervention used to control present danger and threat of danger to a child. Safety management includes in-home, out-of-home or a combination of in-home/out-of-home actions.

### **Safety management must be:**

- 1. Capable of having an immediate effect;**
- 2. Immediately available;**
- 3. Always accessible; and**
- 4. Sufficient to control the danger or threat of danger.**

Safety management is concerned with *controlling* danger and threats of danger only – not changing.

Safety management includes four safety management actions that can be applied alone or in combination.

## Safety Management Actions

Safety actions may include formal or informal services or activities and may be provided by professionals, non-professionals, and the family network.

## **Separation**

Separation is a safety action concerned with threats related to stress, caregiver reactions, child-care responsibility, and caregiver-child access. Separation provides respite for both caregivers and children. The separation action creates alternatives to family routine, scheduling, demand, and daily pressure. Additionally, separation can have a supervisory – oversight function concerning the climate of the home and what is happening. Separation refers to taking any member or members of the family out of the home for a period of time. Separation is viewed as a temporary action which can occur frequently during a week or for short periods of time. Separation may involve any period of time from one hour to a weekend to several days in a row. Separation may involve professional and non-professional options. Separation may involve anything from babysitting to temporary out-of-home placement of a child or combinations. Activities and services that fit this action include:

- Planned absence of caregivers from the home
- Respite care
- Day care
- After school care
- Planned activities for the children
- Child placement: short-term; weekends; several days; or few weeks

## **Actions within Safety Plans (cont'd)**

### **Crisis Management**

Crisis management is specifically concerned with intervening to bring a halt to a crisis and to mobilize problem solving to return a family to a state of calm. For this action to apply, there must be a sudden precipitating event or onset of conditions that immobilize caregivers' ability to solve their problems and manage their lives thus reducing their protective capacities to provide protection and basic care. The purpose of crisis management is crisis resolution and immediate problem solving in order to control the threat to child safety. Activities or services that are consistent with this safety action must specifically address the crisis and may include:

- Crisis intervention
  - Entering into a domestic violence shelter;
  - Entering a detoxification program for drug/alcohol treatment;
  - Emergency medical care; or
  - Immediate mental health commitment (voluntary or involuntary).

It is likely that crisis management will be applied in conjunction with other safety actions.

### **Social Support**

Social support is an action that reduces social isolation and seeks to provide social support. This action is versatile in the sense that it may be used alone or in combination with other actions in order to reinforce and support caregiver efforts. Keeping an eye on how the family is doing is a secondary value of social connection. Keeping the safety threshold in mind, this action may be useful with those who are failing to meet basic protective parenting responsibilities such as young, inexperienced parents; those who are anxious or immobilized emotionally; those who need encouragement and support; those who are overwhelmed with parenting responsibilities; and those who are developmentally disabled. Activities or services that are consistent with this safety action include:

- Basic parenting assistance and teaching;
- Homemaker services to address environmental concerns;
- Supervision and monitoring; and
- In-home babysitting.

### **Resource Support**

Resource support refers to safety action that is directed at a shortage of family resources and resource utilization, the absence of which directly threatens child safety. Activities and services that constitute resource support used to manage threats to child safety include:

- Resource acquisition (i.e. getting heat, water, electricity, food, etc.);
- Transportation services (particularly in reference to an issue associated with a safety threat); and
- Housing assistance.