

Safety Analysis: A Closer Look at the Analysis Questions

1. Have any changes (positive or negative) occurred within the out-of-home family since your last assessment? What are the changes and consider what prompted the change. Did the change in the family result in a change in response to the 10 Safety Indicators. (Note: if this is the initial assessment, check here).

This is the place where you do a comparative analysis of how the resource family and child are doing now in relationship to previous assessments. Are things better, worse, or the same? How have the 10 Safety Indicators changed? What has contributed to the change and what is the impact of these changes on child safety in this home?

2. Considering all of the 10 Safety Indicators, are there sufficient positive Safety Indicators present and in operation that give you confidence that the child will remain safe in the setting? What is your rationale for this judgment.

This analysis question requires you to think about all 10 Safety Indicators and determine if they, in combination, translate to a decision that the child is safe. You need to consider all of the positive Safety Indicators in specific ways that contribute to this resource home being a safe one for this child, now and in the future. Do not overstate the strengths, but present an objective picture.

3. Describe, in behavioral terms, any Negative Characteristic and/or Safety Indicators that are present. Include intensity, frequency, and duration of the Characteristic and/or Safety Indicator and the impact on this child. If there are negative Safety Indicators and the decision is to leave the child in this home, describe the rationale and justification for this decision.

Here you are asked to consider negative Safety Indicators AND any Negative Characteristics that are in operation in the home. This is a critical piece of the analysis. You must control for your biases and for external pressures. You cannot minimize or overlook these Safety Indicators or Characteristics because you don't have another placement available, or because the child has been doing well up to this point in the placement. If your assessment of safety in out-of-home care is going to have real meaning, you must tackle these issues head on and decide what kind of environment this really is for this child. While we have stressed that we do not do Safety Plans in out-of-home care settings, if a court orders a child to remain in a placement that has been determined to be unsafe by the CCYA, a Safety Plan is needed and the protocol to follow for that plan is the same as an in-home Safety Plan.

4. A) Consider any Safety Indicators that are rated as "concerning". B) Are there supports (e.g. respite care, child care, training on the child's specific needs, etc.) that will enhance the resource family's ability to provide a safe

Safety Analysis: A Closer Look at the Analysis Questions, cont'd

environment for the child? What is your rationale for this judgement. For supports already in place, consider the effectiveness/impact/continued need for that support.

This question asks you to consider concerning Safety Indicators that are present in the resource home. Again describe them clearly including the intensity, frequency, and duration. Evaluate the likelihood of them becoming negative Safety Indicators. Think about what supports might help sustain the child in this placement. Decide if increased child welfare professional visitation is needed to continue to evaluate these Safety Indicators. Remember that this is not a Safety Plan. If any of the concerning Safety Indicators lead you to think that a Safety Plan is needed then they are likely operating as negative Safety Indicators and you need to rethink your assessment decisions.