

PENNSYLVANIA SAFETY THREATS

SAFETY THREAT	EXPLANATION	CRITERIA
1. CG intended to cause serious physical harm to CH	Acts were intentional; Objective was to cause pain & suffering; Nothing / no one in the household could stop the behavior; No remorse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CG wants to inflict pain &/or injury to teach CH a lesson; discipline is not the primary reason - The nature of the incident / use of an instrument can be reasonably assumed to heighten the level of pain / injury (e.g. cigarette burns) - CG does not acknowledge any guilt or wrongdoing & they intended to harm CH - CG feels justified, expresses CH deserved it & they intended to hurt CH - CG can reasonably be assumed to have had some awareness of what the result would be prior to the incident
2. CG is threatening to severely harm CH / is fearful that he/she will maltreat child	Threat to severely harm / expressed anxiety is sufficient to conclude that CG might react toward CH at any time & it could be in the near future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CG states he/she will maltreat - CG's threats are plausible, believable, may be related to specific provocative CH behavior - CG talks about being worried about / fearful of / preoccupied with maltreating CH - CG is distressed / "at the end of his/her rope" & is asking for some relief in either specific (e.g. "take the child") or general (e.g. "please help me before something awful happens") terms - CG describes disciplinary incidents that have become out of control & is threatening / fearful that this behavior will be repeated
3. CG cannot / will not explain injuries to CH	CG is unable / unwilling to explain maltreating conditions / injuries consistent with facts; Unexplained serious injury / condition is a present danger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CG acknowledges the presence of injuries / conditions, but pleads ignorant as to how they occurred - CG expresses concern for CH's condition, but is unable to explain it - CG accepts the presence of injuries / conditions, but does not explain them / seem concerned - History & circumstantial information are inconsistent with CG's explanation of the injuries / conditions - CG's verbal expressions do not match their emotional responses & there is not a believable explanation - Facts related to the incident / injury / conditions contradict CG's explanations
4. Sexual abuse suspected / occurred; Circumstances suggest abuse is likely to occur	Sexual abuse always presents serious harm to CH; Concern relates to whether / not sexual abuse is imminent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CG does not believe CH's disclosure of sexual abuse even when there is a preponderance of evidence & this affects CH's safety - Sexual abuse has occurred in which family circumstances (e.g. opportunity) may be consistent with sexual abuse - CG denies the abuse / blames CH / offers no explanation / explanation is unbelievable - Sexual abuse is suspected & circumstances suggest continued abuse is likely to occur - AP has access to CH - CG has forced / encouraged CH to engage in sexual activities - Non-offending CG is unable / unwilling to prevent AP from having access to CH - CG cannot control his/her sexual impulses
5. CG is violent / acting dangerously	Includes both behaviors & emotions which may be immediately observable / frequently occurring / occur in future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Violence includes hitting / beating / physically assaulting / verbally assaulting CH / other family member - Violence includes acting dangerously toward CH / others, including throwing things, taunting weapons, driving recklessly, aggressively intimidating, & terrorizing - Presence of DV where violence involves physical / verbal assault on adult CG in presence of CH; CH's exposure to DV causes fear for self / others - DV is occurring & CH is assaulted / attempting to intervene / inadvertently harmed even though not be the actual target of the violence - CG is impulsive, exhibiting physical aggression, having temper outbursts / unanticipated & harmful physical reactions (e.g. throwing things) - CG's behavior outside the home (e.g. drugs, violence, aggressiveness, hostility) creates an environment within the home which threatens CH safety (e.g. drug parties, drive-by shootings)
6. CG cannot / will not control their behavior	Lack of CG self-control which jeopardizes safety of CH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CG is acting bizarrely / delusional / experiencing hallucinations - CG is under the influence of some substance / is chemically dependent & unable to control effects of the addiction - CG is seriously depressed / unable to control emotions / behaviors & is functionally unable to meet CH's basic needs - CG makes impulsive decisions & plans which leave CH in unsafe situations (e.g. unsupervised, supervised by an unreliable CG) - CG is emotionally immobilized, chronically / situationally (e.g. paralyzed by fear as a result of DV) - CG has addictive patterns / behaviors (e.g. addiction to substances / gambling / computers) that are uncontrolled & leave CH in unsafe situations (e.g. failure to supervise / provide other basic care)
7. CG reacts dangerously to CH's serious emotional symptoms / lack of behavior control / self-destructive behavior	CG can be so provoked by CH's behavior that he/she reacts dangerously; CH's behavior so out-of-control that CG cannot safely manage it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CH is confrontational / insulting / challenging... - CH is highly aggressive & acting out repeatedly... - CH threatens to run away... - CH abuses substances... ...so that CG's lose patience / impulsively strike out at CH / isolate CH / totally avoid CH in an extreme manner

<p>8. CG cannot / will not meet CH's special / physical / emotional / medical / behavioral needs</p>	<p>The needs of CH are acute & require immediate & constant attention by CG; Attention & care specific & related to severe results when left unattended; Imminence is obvious; Severe effects would be immediate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CG does not seek treatment for CH's immediate & dangerous medical conditions - CG's failure to give prescribed medication endangers CH's life / causes his/her condition to worsen - Child complains of extreme pain & CG does not seek medical / dental attention - Child is suicidal / self-mutilating / exhibiting other harmful behaviors (e.g. substance abuse), but CG does not take protective action - CG's expectations of CH are totally unrealistic in view of CH's condition - CH is a physical danger to others - CH's basic needs exceed normal expectations because of unusual conditions (e.g. disabled CH) & family unable to adequately address
<p>9. CG is not performing duties & responsibilities that assure CH safety</p>	<p>Refers only to adults; Duties & responsibilities are at critical level that if not addressed represent specific danger / threat to vulnerable CH; Lack of meeting these basic duties could result in CH being seriously injured / kidnapped / seriously ill / dying</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CG is unable to perform basic care duties / fulfill essential protective duties - CG is incapacitated / incarcerated / hospitalized / on vacation / absent from home / current whereabouts unknown - CG does not attend to CH; the need for care goes unnoticed / unmet (e.g. CH wanders outdoors alone, plays with dangerous objects, plays on unprotected window ledge, exposed to other serious hazards) - CG leaves CH alone, not considering length of time alone & CH's age / development - CG leaves CH with other inadequate / inappropriate CG's - CG is unable to care for CH due to trauma of recent assault / repeated incidents of violence, including DV - CG has abandoned CH, including situations in which he/she flees for his/her own safety due to DV
<p>10. CG's lack of parenting knowledge / skills / motivation presents immediate threat of serious harm to CH</p>	<p>Refers to basic parenting that directly affects CH's safety; Extreme inability / unwillingness to meet basic needs creates CH safety concerns</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CG does not know what basic care is / how to provide it (e.g. how to feed / diaper, how to protect / supervise according to CH's age) - CG's expectations of CH are unrealistic & far exceed CH's capacity thereby placing CH in unsafe situations - CG avoids parenting & basic care responsibilities - CG does not know / apply basic safety measures (e.g. keeping medications / sharp objects / household cleaners out of reach of small CH) - CG places his/her own needs above CH's needs thereby affecting CH's safety - Living conditions severely endanger CH
<p>11. Doesn't have / use resources necessary to meet CH's immediate basic needs & presents immediate threat of serious harm to CH</p>	<p>Lack of resources so acute that their absence could have an imminent severe effect on CH; Could cause serious injury / serious medical problems / serious physical health problems / starvation / serious malnutrition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Family has no food / clothing / shelter - Family finances are insufficient to support needs (e.g. medical care) that, if unmet, could result in a threat to CH safety - Family is routinely using their resources for things (e.g. drugs, electronics, vacations) other than their basic care & support thereby leaving them without their basic needs being adequately met
<p>12. CG perceives CH in extremely negative terms</p>	<p>Perception so negative that, when present, creates CH safety concerns; These types of perceptions must be present & inaccurate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CH is perceived to be the devil / demon-possessed / evil - CG's perception of CH is extremely negative (e.g. deformed, ugly, deficient, embarrassing) - CG perceives CH having taken on same identity as someone CG hates / is fearful of / is hostile toward & CG transfers feelings / perceptions to CH - CH is considered by CG to be punishing / torturing them - CG is jealous of CH & believes CH is a detriment / threat to CG's relationship & stands in the way of his/her best interests - CG sees CH as an undesirable extension of self who needs purging / punishing - CG sees CH as responsible & accountable for CG's problems, blames CH, behaves / acts out toward CH as a result based on a lack of reality / appropriateness because of their own needs / issues
<p>13. CG overtly rejects CYS intervention / refuses access to CH; Indication that CG's will flee</p>	<p>Rejection far more than failure to cooperate / open anger & hostility about CYS involvement / general resistance & reluctance; Indications that family will change residences / leave jurisdiction / refuse access to CH</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CG refuses to allow CYS in the home / access to certain parts of the home - CG refuses to allow CYS to see / speak with CH; does not inform CYS where CH is located - Family is highly transient / has little attachments (e.g. job, home, property, extended family) / there are other circumstances prompting flight (e.g. warrants, false identities uncovered, criminal convictions, financial debt) & behaviors suggest flight for purpose of avoiding CYS involvement - CG has demonstrated behaviors of avoidance / flight - CG's overt behavior prevents CW from assessing CH's living condition (e.g. refusing to talk to CYS, avoiding contact with CYS, making excuses for not participating, missing appointments, other evasive / manipulative / suspicious behavior)
<p>14. CH is fearful of home situation, including people in home</p>	<p>CH's fear obvious, extreme, & related to some perceived danger CH feels / experiences; Cause of CH's fear is active, currently occurring, & immediate concern of CH; Imminence applies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CH demonstrates extreme emotional / physical responses (e.g. crying, inability to focus, nervousness, withdrawal, fear of going home) indicating fear of the living situation / people within the home - CH expresses fear & describes people & circumstances which are an obvious / serious threat - CH recounts experiences which form the basis for fear - CH's fearful response escalates at the mention of home / people / circumstances associated with reported incidents - CH describes personal threats which seem clear, serious, & believable