

Florida Department of Children and Families Case Review July 2015

Review Completed by Action for Child Protection Northwest Region Overview Date: 7/1/2015

Overview and Method

Action for Child Protection, Inc. completed a case record review requested by the Florida Department of Children and Families to assess the implementation of the Florida Safety Methodology. Cases were randomly selected from three regions in Florida and the sample was provided to Action for Child Protection. Cases were reviewed off-site by Action staff utilizing Qualtrics survey software and FSFN access provided by the Department.

This report provides:

- Summary of key findings for the five main focus points of the review: Present Danger, Information Collection, Impending Danger, Safety Determination and Safety Planning.
- Data profile for cases reviewed within the Northwest Region for CPI.

Sample Size: 28 Assessments

Present Danger Assessment

Data Summary

- Total of 8 (29%) cases were identified by the review team case information indicated present danger.
- Total of 8 (29%) cases were identified by the worker indicated present danger.
- This resulted in a difference of 0 (0%) cases between the review teams identification of present danger and the worker identification of present danger. This is a decrease in disparity of 8% since the Fall 2014 review.
- Total of 3 (11%) cases were identified by the review team as not having enough information either in the present danger assessment or case record to assess for present danger.

Strengths

- There were several cases where the present danger assessment provided specific detail regarding the workers assessment to support the assessment.
- Present danger threats alignment between reviewer and worker were strongly aligned.

Areas for Consideration

• In some cases involving law enforcement taking action, present danger assessments were found to be insufficient. The law enforcement actions were not recognized as taking action and representative of present danger.

Information Collection

Data Summary

• 78.5% of the cases reviewed were found to have sufficient information collection. This is an increase in 7.5% since the Fall 2014 review.

Strengths

- All areas of information collection were rated to be over 70%.
- Information collection for child functioning and maltreatment was found to be high within the region.
- Adult functioning increased significantly since the last review, with 75% of the cases containing sufficient information in this domain.
- The majority of the cases reviewed were found to have adequate and good quality information.
- There were no cases identified as having no information.

Areas for Consideration

• Information collection for parenting general and parenting discipline continue to be areas for continued focus for information collection.

Impending Danger Assessment

Data Summary

- Total of 11 (39%) cases were identified by the review team as impending danger.
- Total of 9 (32%) cases were identified by the worker as impending danger.
- This resulted in a difference of 2 (7%) cases between what the review team identified as impending danger and the worker identified as impending danger. This is a decrease in disparity from the Fall 2014.

Strengths

- Cases that information was determined to be of good quality and sufficient supported the identification of caregiver protective capacities and the danger threats.
- When danger threats were identified, high degree of consistency with review team in the identification of an accurate danger threat.

Areas for Consideration

• Nature of maltreatment domain in several cases did not contain an assessment of the past child protection investigations/assessments and impact on current family conditions.

Safety Decision

Data Summary

- For all cases reviewed the reviewers found that 83% of the cases that were identified as safe by the worker were accurate.
- In 10% of the total cases reviewed, the review team was not able to identify if the safety
 decision (either safe or unsafe) was accurate based upon the information in the case
 record.
- The review team identified 10 cases where children were determined to be unsafe. The workers identified 8 cases where children were determined to be unsafe.

Strengths

- Several cases where information was sufficient, the safety decision was accurate.
- When children were found to be unsafe by the worker, there was a high degree of consistency with the review team safety determination.

Areas for Consideration

• In some cases the worker justifies the safety decision through referrals to services, despite the condition in the home and indicators of impending danger.

Safety Planning

Data Summary

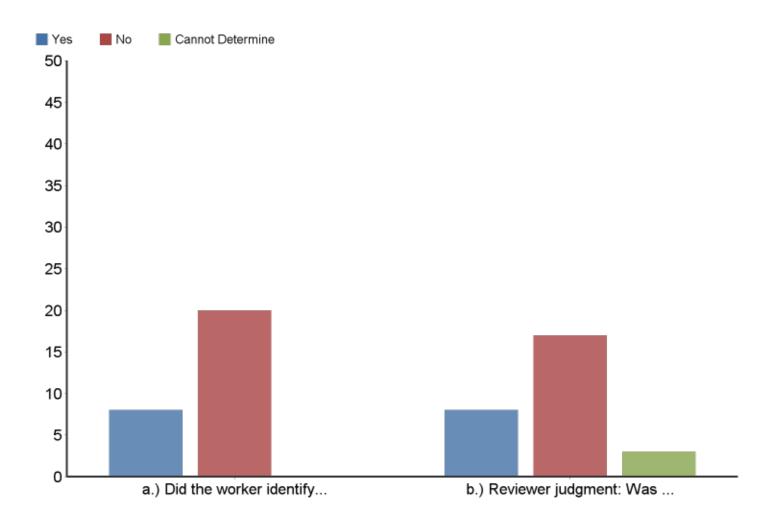
- A total of 8 cases were reviewed for safety plans. In those cases, 75% were identified as having detail and sufficiency to control for danger threats.
- A total of 3 cases were reviewed for conditions for return, 0% was identified as having logical and attainable conditions for return developed.

Strengths

• For cases where information was available, the safety planning analysis and conditions for return were supported.

Areas for Consideration

• Conditions for return were often treatment focused and not related to the safety planning analysis.



#	Question	Yes	No	Cannot Determine	Response	Average Value
1	a.) Did the worker identify present danger at any point in the investigation process?	8	20	-	28	1.71
2	b.) Reviewer judgment: Was there information to indicate present danger in this case?	8	17	3	28	1.82

Which of the following Safety Threats were identified due to present danger? Check all that apply. If present danger has not been identified, leave Worker Identified column blank. Identify any present danger safety threats you believe existed in the case.

#	Question	Reviewer Identified	Worker Identified	Response	Average Value
1	Parent/Legal Guardian's intentional and willful act caused serious physical injury to the child or the caregiver intended to seriously injure the child.	2	2	4	1.50
2	Child has a serious illness or injury (indicative of child abuse) that is unexplained, or the parent/legal guardian/caregiver explanations are inconsistent with the illness or injury.	1	1	2	1.50
3	The child's physical living conditions are hazardous and a child has already been seriously injured or will likely be seriously injured. The living conditions seriously endanger a child's physical health.	1	1	2	1.50
4	There are reports of serious harm and the child's whereabouts cannot be ascertained and/or there is reason to believe that the family is about to flee to avoid agency intervention and /or refuses access to the child and the reported concern is significant and indicates harm.	-	-	-	-
5	Parent/Legal Guardian is not meeting the child's essential medical needs and the child is/has already been harmed or will likely be seriously harmed.	-	-	-	-
6	Child shows serious emotional symptoms requiring intervention and/or lacks behavioral control and/or exhibits self-destructive behavior that the parent/legal guardian is unwilling or unable to manage.	-	-	-	-
7	Parent/Legal Guardian is violent, impulsive, or acting dangerously in ways that seriously harmed the child or will likely seriously harm the child.	7	7	14	1.50
8	Parent/Legal Guardian is not meeting child's basic and essential needs for food clothing and/or supervision and the child is/has already been seriously harmed or will likely be seriously harmed.	1	1	2	1.50
9	Parent/Legal Guardian is threatening to seriously harm the child; is fearful he/she will seriously harm the child.	-	-	-	-
10	Parent/Legal Guardian views child and/or acts toward the child in extremely negative ways and such behavior has or will result in serious harm to the child.	-	-	-	-
11	Other	-	-	-	-

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Yes		8	100.00%
2	No		0	0.00%
	Total		8	100.00%

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Yes		7	87.50%
2	No		1	12.50%
	Total		8	100.00%

Text Entry

Justification for lack of present danger is that everyone denies the allegations. Would hope to find observations of behavior and conditions to support lack of present danger, not denying the allegations.

older child is not vulnerable as baby was to co-sleeping

Good decision; open case and parents violated existing safety plan

Area of Need: PDA is focused on the mother being incarcerate and notes that a new PDA will be completed once she is released. She is released the same day and no further assessment regarding if there is or is not present danger. In addition, the current provider for the youngest child is reportedly not ever to be left alone with the child, yet he is the provider for the child at the time of the present danger assessment.

Area of Need: The chid was placed with the grandparent by LE due to the violence by the father. The placement was due to present danger that then the worker needed to assess the plan that was enacted by LE, which did not occur.

Present danger well established.

The worker documents that when she arrive the 4 children are all outside playing clearly with no adult supervision. Present danger is not identified and based on FFA documentation I assume it was because other neighbors (hotel) say they are all watching the kids. The decision might be right in this case, but the documentation is not clear to support the decision.

The child was out of state when the present danger was identified and a relative agreed to keep the child until law enforcement could intervene.

Sufficient information to determine present danger.

Appropriate assessment of present danger with reasonable safety plan.

Information supports no present danger

Family has taken action to protect child, grandparents not allowing father access to son.

Maltreating parent had been removed so present danger resolved.

The assessment was well documented.

Area of Need: The worker identified present danger based upon a LE investigation of the bio-father who does not reside in the home with the child and does not have contact with the child-as the child was with an alternate caregiver and had been for several months due to the mother's placement of the child with the caregiver due to her substance misuse. There are two present danger assessments-one that says present danger and one that does not. There is also another child that it appears that the present danger plan that identifies present danger is addressing, but there is no information in the contact notes or PDA regarding the assessment of the child

good determination of no present danger

Appeared to be an isolated incident with parent responding appropriately

Area of Need: There is a pattern of family violence, including the mother leaving and returning to the home. There are allegations that both parents are aggressors and that the child has been witness to the violence. The mother is reported to be at a shelter-which was not confirmed-at initial contact and the supporting statements by the worker in the PDA on why there is no present danger is due to the mother accepting services.

A present danger safety plan was created for inappropriate touching which occurred 4 years ago. I could not determine that the child is currently afraid it will happen again. Out of an abundance of caution, this plan is fine and family members were glad to have a role, but not sure it really was present danger.

Appropriate response to the situation.

Present danger assessment adequate

Strength: PDA captured the response by household members and the absence of present danger.

Strength: Initial PDA contained sufficient information to determine no present danger. Area of Need: During the assessment the child assaulted the caregiver and was subsequently arrested, there was no new intake report for this event and based upon the case notes, it appears that a new present danger assessment was needed and not completed.

Strength: Worker developed a present danger safety plan with a relative that allowed to keep the child and the mother together.

There was no information to indicate present danger.

Information was sufficient.

The interview protocol was followed while collecting information relevant to the investigation, including:

- "Yes" indicates the individuals were interviewed at any point in the investigation process
- "Yes, Unclear if Separate/Private interview was conducted" indicates the individuals were interviewed during the investigation, but it is unclear if they were interviewed separate/private (Applies for family/household members)
- "No" indicates the individuals were relevant to the case, but not interviewed at any point in the investigation process
- "NA" indicates that individuals are Not Applicable to the case

#	Question	Yes	Yes, Unclear if Separate/Private	No	Response	Average Value
1	a.) Alleged child victim	16	11	-	27	1.41
2	b.) Siblings/Other children in the household	9	3	1	13	1.38
3	c.) Non-Maltreating Parent/Caregiver	10	4	-	14	1.29
4	d.) Maltreating Parent/Caregiver	17	9	1	27	1.41
5	e) Other Household Members	4	4	-	8	1.50
6	f.) Relevant Collaterals	22	4	2	28	1.29

This section is concerned with evaluating the sufficiency of information for the six domains of information collection. Reviewers should be evaluating the information in the FFA in regards to the sufficiency criteria for each domain.

Reviewer should select "YES" if information is clearly documented and sufficient for decision making. Reviewer should select "NO, information is present but not sufficient" if the concepts are noted in the investigation but the information is not sufficient to support decision-making.

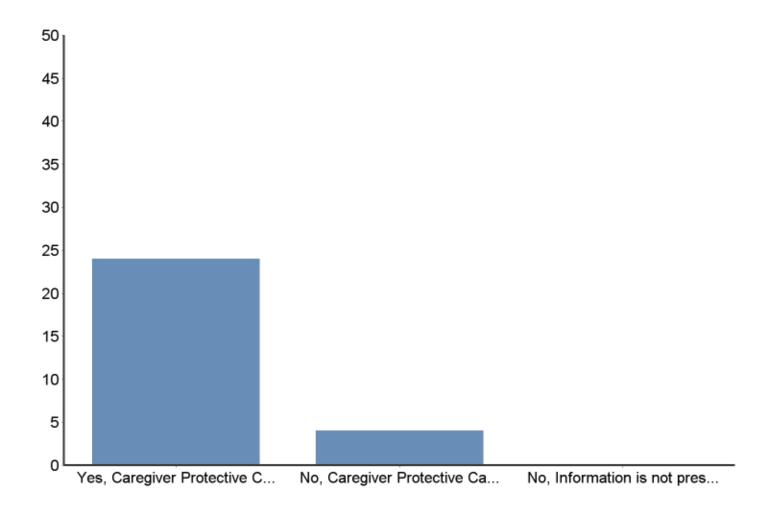
Reviewer should select "NO, information not present" if the worker did not include the concepts in the investigation.

#	Question	YES, Information is Sufficient	NO, Information is present but not sufficient	NO, Information is not present	Response	Average Value
1	a. Extent of alleged maltreatment (What is the extent of the maltreatment?)	22	6	-	28	1.21
2	b. Nature of maltreatment? (What surrounding circumstances accompany the maltreatment?)	24	4	-	28	1.14
3	c. Parenting disciplinary practices (What are the disciplinary approaches used by the parent, including the typical context?)	20	8	-	28	1.29
4	d. General parenting (What are the overall, typical, pervasive parenting practices used by the parent? Do Not Include Discipline.)	20	8	-	28	1.29
5	e. Adult functioning (How does the adult function on a daily basis? Include behaviors, feelings, intellect, physical capacity and temperament).	21	7	-	28	1.25
6	f. Child functioning (How does the child function on a daily basis? Include pervasive behaviors, feelings, intellect, physical capacity and temperament.)	25	3	-	28	1.11

This question is concerned with evaluating the assessment of caregiver protective capacities.

Reviewer should select "YES" if information supports the identified caregiver protective capacities. Reviewer should select "NO, information is present but identified Caregiver Protective Capacities are not supported by the information. Worker may have selected caregiver protective capacities that are accurate, however may have selected others that are inaccurate or not supported by the information as being present, but rather absent.

Reviewer should select "NO, information not present" to support the assessment of caregiver protective capacities when information is absent from the record to inform the caregiver protective capacities.



Text Entry

Information is sufficient to support lack of impending danger.

The aunt and grandmother both live in this household and the FFA says they help take care of the 8 year old so they should have been assessed in the FFA

good information about family

It was not possible to obtain certain aspects of the adult functioning and parenting because parent fled the state.

Generally good information collection and services have been arranged immediately to help with parents level of supervision which is the primary issue.

Very thorough description of adult functioning and protective capacities.

The information was appropriate and sufficient

It was difficult to determine mother's living situation and current living situation for her children, although they were out of the mother's home.

good level of information

Grandmother is a caregiver but she was not assessed.

Although the protective capacitie were well documented, it appears that some of the protective capacities of the mother should not have been considered present. Although it was acknowledged that she made poor decisions, it was not reflected to much of a degree in protective capacities determination.

Good information about mother's protective capacities.

Area of Need: Mother is in substance abuse treatment and court and all of the CPC's are identified as yes's. In addition the child is mentioned to have ADHD and is on medication, however this is not addressed in parenting or child functioning.

Strength: Good information to understand all family members

Good information collection.

Area of Need: Missing information regarding past history of violence. Worker makes statements that indicate that there is impending danger, yet does not reconcile these statements further to understand decision making.

good information collection

The newborn was observed, so interview item was checked as yes. Good information gathering.

adequate information collection

Area of Need: The family has significant history, to include the removal and subsequent adoption of other children due to substance misuse that is not fully explored. In addition the mother is said to have ongoing mental health-depression-that she is now self medicating with marijuana. Information collection appears to be focused on the referral to services rather than gathering information to determine safety.

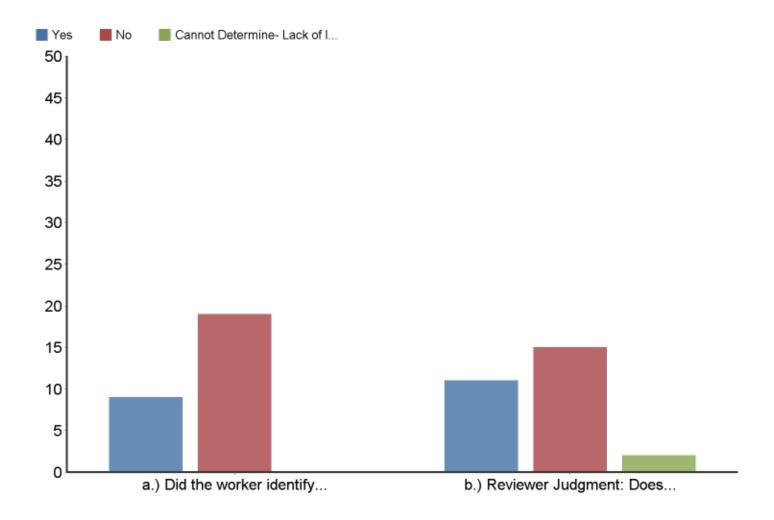
Strength: Worker did provide good information in all domains. Area of Need: During the course of the assessment, based upon case notes, the dynamics within the household continued to deteriorate and this was not captured in the FFA. In particular there are indicators in the case notes that there may be impending danger based upon the child's needs and the caregiver being unable or unwilling to meet those needs. This information should have been further assessed and explored. There was little to no further exploration after the child was arrested for assaulting the caregiver to further inform the FFA.

Strength: Worker completed a detailed FFA. Area of Need: Further reconciliation of past history with the mother and the history with the father.

Information was gathered through the investigation information and family functioning assessment. There could have been more information about the circumstances of the interviews.

Area of Need: Information collection appears limited in regards to the adult functioning and parenting. Mentions that the mother is stressed, but unclear why. Parent and child interaction for 17 year old seems strained, but not fully explored. Rationale appears focused on the services the family will engage in rather than understanding the need for services. Family was not high risk or very high risk, yet was referred to services-to be opened for services.

Good information about adult and child functioning.



#	Question	Yes	No	Cannot Determine- Lack of Information	Response	Average Value
1	a.) Did the worker identify impending danger at the conclusion of the Family Functioning Assessment?	9	19	-	28	1.68
2	b.) Reviewer Judgment: Does the information collected indicate impending danger in this case?	11	15	2	28	1.68

Which of the following Safety Threats were identified due to impending danger? Check all that apply. If impending danger has not been identified, leave Worker Identified column blank. Identify any impending danger threats you believe exist in the case.

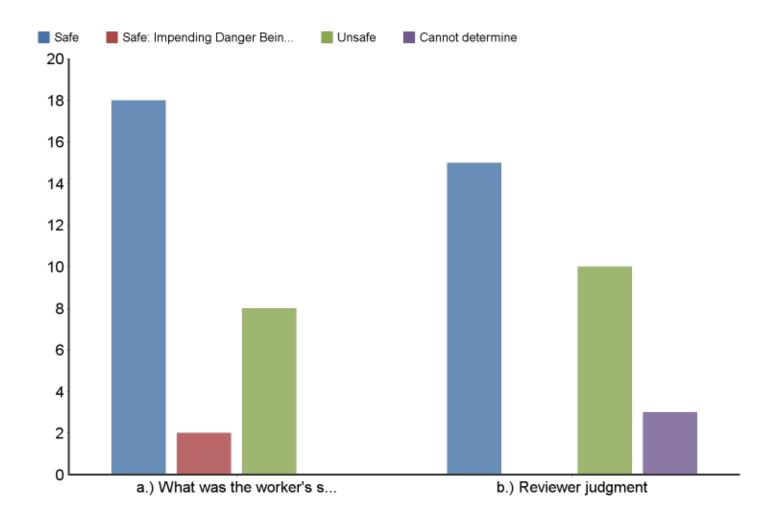
#	Question	Reviewer Identified	Worker Identified	Response	Average Value
2	Parent/Legal Guardian/Caregiver's intentional and willful act caused serious physical injury to the child, or the caregiver intended to seriously harm the child.	-	-	-	-
3	Child has serious illness or injury (indicative of child abuse) that is unexplained or the parent/legal guardian/caregiver explanations are inconsistent with the illness or injury.	-	-	-	-
4	The child's physical living conditions are hazardous and a child has already been seriously injured or will likely be seriously injured. The living conditions endanger a child's physical health.	1	1	2	1.50
5	Parent/Legal Guardian/Caregiver is not meeting the child's essential medical needs and the child is/has already been seriously harmed or will likely be seriously harmed.	1	1	2	1.50
6	Child shows serious emotional symptoms requiring intervention and/or lacks behavioral control and/or exhibits self-destructive behavior that the parent/legal guardian/caregiver is unwilling or unable to manage.	1	1	2	1.50
7	Parent/Legal Guardian/Caregiver is violent, impulsive or acting dangerously in way that seriously harmed the child or will likely seriously harm the child.	11	9	20	1.45
8	Parent/Legal Guardian/Caregiver is not meeting child's basic and essential needs for food, clothing, and/or supervision and the child is/has already been seriously harmed or will likely be seriously harmed.	2	1	3	1.33
9	Parent/Legal Guardian/Caregiver is threatening to seriously harm the child; is fearful he/she will seriously harm the child.	-	-	-	-
10	Parent/Legal Guardian/Caregiver views child and/or acts toward the child in extremely negative ways and such behavior has or will result in serious harm to the child.	1	1	2	1.50
12	Other.	-	-	-	-
17	There are reports of serious harm and the child's whereabouts cannot be ascertained and/or there is reason to believe that the family is about to flee to avoid agency intervention and/or refuses access to the child and the reported concern is significant and indicates serious harm.	-	-	-	-

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Yes		9	81.82%
2	No		2	18.18%
3	NA-No Impending Danger Identified by Worker or Reviewer		0	0.00%
	Total		11	100.00%

Reviewer judgment: the information collected is adequate and reflects good quality?

Was there enough depth and breadth in all information collection a) to provide a reasonable understanding of family members and their functioning and b) to support and justify decision-making. For safety intervention decisions, the information must be enough to identify, support, reconcile and justify the presence or absence of threats to safety and to inform and justify the kind of safety plan/safety management that occurs or that a safety plan or safety management is unnecessary.

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Yes		21	75.00%
2	No		7	25.00%
	Total		28	100.00%



#	Question	Safe	Safe: Impending Danger Being Managed by Protective Parent/Legal Guardian	Unsafe	Cannot determine	Response	Average Value
1	a.) What was the worker's safety decision?	18	2	8	-	28	1.64
2	b.) Reviewer judgment	15	-	10	3	28	2.04

Text Entry

No basis to the referral and a very vague referral to begin with.

Appropriate decision-making

The FFA was completed months later, looks like the date for completion of FFA coincide with receiving medical examiners report to confirm death of child was accidental due to co-sleeping.

Area of Need: The mother agreeing to services-which later she is not able to be contacted to complete-appears to have been the rationale for closing the case as safe despite the information in the FFA identifying a parent that is potentially violent, mother with depression, and pattern of leaving and going back to the home environment.

Good identification of impending danger

Area of Need: Impending danger threat was identified by the worker, however there appears to have been two danger threats identified based upon the information. The worker's determination of safe appears to be based upon the out of home safety plan that was developed with the relative, without consideration for how the child would return to the home or how the child's behaviors were going to be managed by the out of home safety plan participant.

Appropriate safety decision.

Very significant history and the safety decision was very appropriate.

Last recorded contact in this case in FSFN is from 2/27 so not sure whether the arranged services are actually happening or not.

Good decision, Family is aware of concerns and able to protect child. child is 15 years old and able to protect self. Also has a referral for services for child.

Safety decision was appropriate.

There was not enough information to determine that the child had serious emotional symptoms but there was information to support that the mother was impulsive. Agree that child was unsafe.

Good documentation of the impending danger and reason for safety decision.

Generally good assessment, information about the grandmother is reflected in the FFA in spite of not being assessed in adult functioning.

Good decision about safety because mother let father come back and they have a new baby.

Area of Need: Justification for safe was based upon the mother engaging in services to address the substance misuse and her mental health. Due to the limited information it is unclear if there was or was not impending danger. The child in the home 1 year old and there was no documentation that there was a rapid safety feedback or review of the case, despite the significant prior history.

More information was needed about the children's safety. Mother and paramour got into a physical and bloody fight that children witnessed and mother quickly returned to the paramour. At the conclusion of FFA, they were again no longer together but mother was going to be kicked out of her current living situation and there was nothing to indicate that she would no longer return to paramour.

Conditions do not meet threshold of impending danger

Sufficient information to make decision.

Area of Need: At the conclusion of the FFA it unclear what occurs with the present danger plan and the assessment of the bio-father. The present danger plan appears to remain in effect at case closure.

Although documentation and how it was gathered could have been clearer. There was sufficient information to make a decision.

Strength: Good decision

Decision was well supported.

Reviewer: Does the family proceed to case management services due to an unsafe child or child that is safe with impending danger being managed?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Yes		7	25.00%
2	No		21	75.00%
	Total		28	100.00%

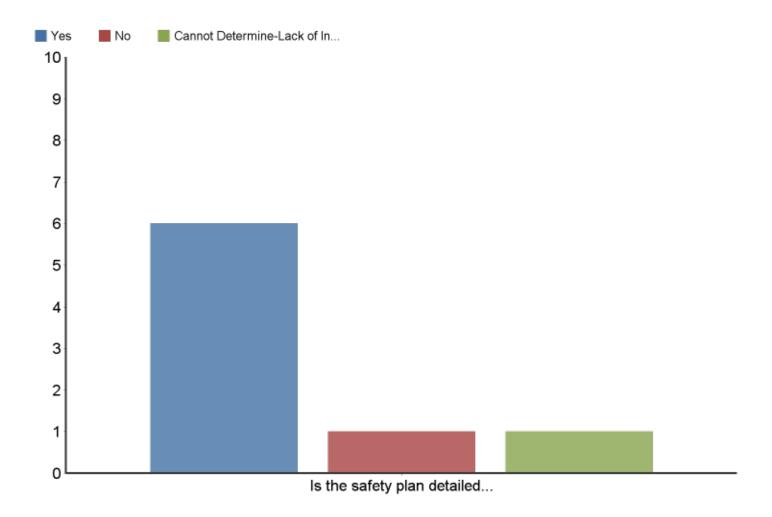
Safety Plan:

#	Question	No	Yes, In- Home Safety Plan	Yes, Out-of- Home Safety Plan	Cannot Determine- Lack of Information	Response	Average Value
1	a.) Was a Safety Plan developed in this case?	-	4	4	-	8	2.50
2	b.) Reviewer judgment: Was a safety plan necessary in this case?	-	4	4	-	8	2.50

Safety Planning Analysis Safety Plan Justification: Accurate, logical and understandable to inform the type of safety plan developed.

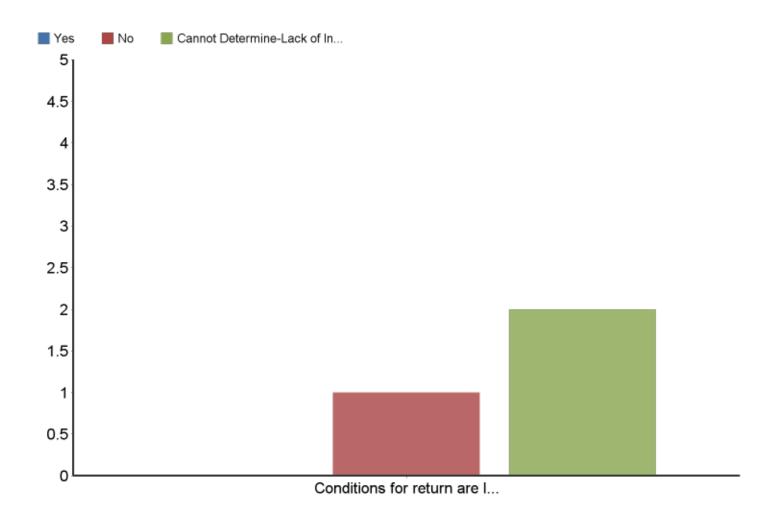
#	Question	Yes	No	Cannot Determine- Lack of Information	Response	Average Value	
1	Does the safety planning analysis and justification clearly support the type of safety plan developed.	8	_	-	8	1.00	

Safety Plan: Safety plan is able to control for danger. Services and level of effort are detailed to include persons responsible for safety services.



#	Question	Yes	No	Cannot Determine-Lack of Information	Response	Average Value	
1	Is the safety plan detailed and sufficient level of effort to control for danger threats?	6	1	1	8	1.38	

Conditions for Return: Conditions address the safety planning analysis determinations that were keeping the child from remaining in the home and the conditions for return are realistic and will allow for an in home safety plan to be implemented.



#	Question	Yes	No	Cannot Determine- Lack of Information	Response	Average Value
1	Conditions for return are logical and attainable and relevant to the safety planning analysis and justification.	-	1	2	3	2.67

Reviewer Comments: Safety Plan and Conditions for Return: Include strengths and areas needing attention.

Text Entry

Out of home safety plan was required. There are numerous danger threats and parent has few protective capacities.

The conditions for return and level of effort and services for safety plan did not have enough detailed information.

good safety plan

Strength: Utilization of both formal and informal safety services was completed by the worker. Area of Need: The safety plan does not address the contact plans for the children with their fathers and how the one father-who is a good resource could be used as a safety plan participant.

conditions for return stste that parents will cooperate with services recommended and complete their case plan tasks. this is not what conditions for return should be in order to get to an in-home pln.

There is court ordered no contact for one parent. Other parent has both children and was included in case plan but not in first Family Functioning Assessment. so conditions for return were not clear.

The initial safety plan had the child with the mother and the location of the mother and child were unknown to the father, whose behavior was out of control. Ultimately an out of home safety plan was necessary and child was removed from mother's care as well.