

## **CPI Practice Application Lab 2: Present Danger Assessment and Planning**



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# CPI Lab 2: Present Danger Assessment and Planning

## Commencing an Investigation

- The Hotline determines initial response times based on their assessment of present or impending danger, as indicated by the information provided.
- Based upon having more complete or up-to-date information than initially collected by the Hotline, the supervisor may change the response time established by the Hotline.
- An **Immediate Response** time established by the Hotline requires the investigator to attempt to make the initial face-to-face contact with the alleged child victim as soon as possible but no later than four (4) hours following assignment by the Hotline.
- A **24-Hour Response** time established by the Hotline requires the investigator to attempt to make initial face-to-face contact with the alleged child no later than 24-hours following assignment by the Hotline.
- During the pre-commencement preparation activities, the CPI will determine if the response time assigned appears appropriate based on a review of the intake and other information known about the family.
- If the CPI believes a change in response time is warranted, a supervisor must be consulted.

## Getting in the Front Door

- Much of your introduction with the family is going to occur while you are trying to get in the door.
- By the time you get to the family's kitchen or living room, where ever the interview occurs, some of the important information that you need to convey upfront will most likely have happened, your name, role, credentials and the reason you are there, and what you hope comes from your visit.
- It is important to remember that the "resistant" behavior we see expressed is a reaction to our message and the way we are delivering it. There is a reason for the person's behavior, and we need to understand what might be the reason behind it. There are generally two different emotional states to consider:
  - The person is feeling out of control
  - The person is feeling vulnerable
- A person is likely to feel out of control if the person does not perceive that their behavior is the problem, as might be the situation with a perpetrator of domestic violence.
- Any focus on their behavior during the rapport building phase will not get you in the door.
- You will better connect with such an individual by assuming that they will want to know if there are concerns that others have about their children's behaviors, and that you need to share those concerns and gather the person's perspective.
- That helps the person regain a sense of control; after all, they are the child's parent/caregiver.
- You can also acknowledge that they know their children best and you are there to learn from them.
- The other emotional state to consider is that your very presence can make a person feel vulnerable.
- In situations involving domestic violence, it is very common for a parent, most often the mother, to fear that an investigation might result in an escalation of violence against themselves and/or the children.
- You will want to connect with a person who feels vulnerable by reassuring them that the information they share is confidential (to the extent possible – crimes and child abuse must be reported, etc.) and you want to make sure that their children are safe from the violence of other people.
- If you suspect family or domestic violence, you also want to offer them assistance in their own safety planning if needed.

## **Activity: Opening the Door (Dealing With “Resistance”)**

### **Directions:**

- Utilizing the Sandler intake practice your skills responding to initial resistance when Melanie (mother) answers the door; and initial resistance when Bruce (step-father) answers the door.

### **Activity Notes:**

## INTAKE REPORT WITH REPORTER NARRATIVE

Intake Name Sandler, Melanie		Intake Number 2014-000001-01	County	Secondary County
Date and Time Intake Received 01.10.14 02:31 AM	Program Type Child Intake - Initial	Investigative Sub-Type In-Home	Provider Name	
Background Checks Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Reason	Call Record Number	3 Hits Reviewed <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Worker Safety Concerns <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Prior Involvement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Law Enforcement Notified <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
Send Florida Administrative Message to Law Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A				
Response Time 24 Hours	Name – Hotline Counselor Bosley, John	Name – Hotline Supervisor Townsend, Charles		

### I. Family Information

Name – Family Sandler, Melanie		Telephone Number – Home		
Address – Street	Unit Designator	City	State FL	Zip Code
Primary Language:	Interpreter Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			

Directions to House  
Current Location: Mom's residence.  
Next 24 hours: Unknown

Mom Address: 209 Kettering Court, Florida City, FL 32399  
Mom Phone: 555.402.4189

**A. Participants**

Name	ID Number	Role	Gender	DOB
Sandler, James H		CH-V-HM	Male	11.03.2003
Est. Age	Ethnicity	Race	Disability	
10	Other	White	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Hearing Impaired: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		24 Access <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
Device Needed:				

Name	ID Number	Role	Gender	DOB
Braun, Byron		CH-V-HM	Male	01.24.2011
Est. Age	Ethnicity	Race	Disability	
2	Other	White	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Hearing Impaired: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		24 Access <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
Device Needed:				

Name	ID Number	Role	Gender	DOB
Braun, Shane		CH-V-HM	Male	11.16.2013
Est. Age	Ethnicity	Race	Disability	
	Other	White	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Hearing Impaired: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		24 Access <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
Device Needed:				

Name	ID Number	Role	Gender	DOB
Braun, Melanie Sandler		IN-PC-HM	Female	09.22.1976
Est. Age	Ethnicity	Race	Disability	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Hearing Impaired: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		24 Access <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Device Needed:				

Name	ID Number	Role	Gender	DOB
Sandler, Michael		PC-NM	Male	12.27.1974
Est. Age	Ethnicity	Race	Disability	
	Other	White	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Hearing Impaired: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		24 Access <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
Device Needed:				

Name	ID Number	Role	Gender	DOB
Braun, Bruce		PC-AP-HM	Male	10.17.1983
Est. Age	Ethnicity	Race	Disability	
30	Other	White	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Hearing Impaired: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		24 Access <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
Device Needed:				

AP = Alleged Perpetrator  
CH = Child In Home  
HM = Household Member  
NM = Non-Household Member

PC = Parent/Caregiver  
RN = Report Name  
SO = Significant Other  
V = Victim

**B. Address and Phone Information**

Name	Type	Address	Telephone Number
Sandler, James	Primary Residence	209 Kettering Court, Florida City FL 32399	555.274.8909
Braun, Byron	Primary Residence	209 Kettering Court, Florida City FL 32399	
Braun, Shane	Primary Residence	209 Kettering Court, Florida City FL 32399	
Braun, Melanie (Sandler)	Primary Residence	209 Kettering Court, Florida City FL 32399	555.402.4189
Braun, Bruce	Primary Residence	209 Kettering Court, Florida City FL 32399	

**C. Relationships**

Subject	Relationship	Subject
Braun, Bruce	Father-Step	Sandler, James
Braun, Melanie (Sandler)	Mother-Birth	Sandler, James
Sandler, Michael	Father-Birth	Sandler, James
Braun, Bruce	Father-Birth	Braun, Byron
Braun, Melanie (Sandler)	Mother-Birth	Braun, Byron
Braun, Bruce	Father-Birth	Braun, Shane
Braun, Melanie (Sandler)	Mother-Birth	Braun, Shane

**D. Alleged Maltreatment**

Alleged Victim	Maltreatment Code
Sandler, James	Physical Injury
Sandler, James	Family Violence Threatens Child

Braun, Byron	Family Violence Threatens Child
Braun, Shane	Family Violence Threatens Child

**E. Location of Incident**

ADDRESS – STREET				
Address – Street	Apt.	City	State	Zip Code
Telephone Number – Home	Telephone Number – Work		Telephone Number - Cell	

**II. Narratives****A. Allegation Narrative****Extent of Maltreatment**

Bruce and child James got into a verbal and physical altercation over homework and perceived disrespect by James to Bruce. During the physical altercation, the mother intervened by jumping on Bruce's back to keep him from hurting James.

**Surrounding Circumstances**

On 01/09/14, the step-father Bruce told James that he had 30 minutes to complete his homework and James began to mouth off. Bruce went toward James to physically remove and carry to James' bedroom and James went limp which resulted in Bruce trying to pick James up. When the Bruce went to pick James up, James began to hit Bruce. Bruce grabbed James' wrist to restrain him and the mother Melanie jumped on Bruce's back. James scooted away up the stairs. Bruce went upstairs and grabbed James by the shoulders and James again went limp at which time Bruce told James to "stay put" and that he will get a "0" on his homework because he would not allow him to continue with homework. Bruce left and waited for the maternal Grandmother to show up. Bruce will be residing with his mother, for the evening to allow the family to cool down.



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Bruce had been drinking earlier but did not appear to be intoxicated, was not slurring, stumbling, or incoherent.

The mother, Melanie, provided a slightly different account of the events. Bruce came home from a bar and was intoxicated according to the mother. When he returned home, the mother and Bruce engaged in a conversation about James' grades. James said something disrespectful and Bruce became upset and went to discipline James. Bruce grabbed the child by the throat and slammed him against the seat of the chair and computer table. When the mother tried to stop Bruce, he pinned her against the sliding glass door and slapped her in the face. Bruce began throwing chairs in the living room at the child as the child went up the stairs to his room. Once upstairs, Bruce grabbed James by the throat again and tried to throw him onto the bunk beds. The mother again intervened and was hit again by Bruce.

James and Bruce have a difficult relationship.

There are 2 other children in the home; unknown if they were present during the verbal and physical altercations.

LE was called and responded to the scene.

#### Child Functioning

James attends elementary school and is in the 5th grade. James can be a "smart alec" and does not believe that he can do anything wrong.

Byron is 3 years old and attends daycare

Shane is 2 months old and attends daycare

#### Adult Functioning

Both mother and Bruce are employed; unknown details re: James' biological father is Michael

Family has a prior history

#### Parenting Practices – General

The mother allows James to get away with things and Bruce does not

Unknown re: other children

#### Parenting Practices – Discipline/Behavior Management

The mother is not big on spankings and she allows Bruce to spank and discipline but it has never gotten out of control.

Byron gets redirected and maybe a swat on his hand

No physical discipline with Shane

a. Provider Detail

B. Narrative for Worker Safety Concerns

### III. Agency Response

#### A. Recommendation

System Screening Recommendation	Counselor Screening Recommendation	Counselor Screening Reason
Screen In	Screen In	
Counselor Name	Counselor Screening Date/Time	
Bosley, John	01.10.2014, 03:20 AM	
Reason for Override		
System Response Priority Recommendation	Counselor Response Priority Recommendation	Date/Time Decision Made
Reason for Override		

#### B. Decision

Decision	Date/Time Decision Made	Reason
Worker:		
Explain		

### IV. CI Unit Documentation

First Call Attempted Date/Time	Completed Call Date/Time
Call Log	
Called Out By	Called To
Duncan, Sabrina	

## REPORTER NARRATIVE

Name – Worker Bosley, John		
Name – Reporter Watts, George		Reporter Type Law Enforcement
Badge Number		Case Number
Reporter Caller ID 555.555.5555	Reporter Requests Contact <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Report Method Phone
Home Phone	Work Phone	Other Phone 555.717.5555
Email Address		La nguage

### Reporter Narrative

Reporter is law enforcement officer who responded to the scene.

### Source Information

Maternal Grandmother: Pam Block responded to the home  
Phone: 555.555.9999

### Background Summary

## Interviewing Children, Alone

- Upon gaining access to the home:
  - Address any immediate concerns parent has.
  - Explain that CPI is required to interview child alone.
  - Give family, including child if older, an overview of your role and purpose.
  - State that everyone in the family is important and you need each person's perspectives as to what is happening.
- It might be helpful to briefly review your role and purpose again IF the parent was extremely agitated the first time you explained your role.
- If children are old enough, you should decide if you want to explain your role and purpose to the whole family.
- Given cultural considerations, there will be times when you want to first speak privately with the parents.
- In some cultures, conducting an interview with the mother when the father is not at home, and does not know what is happening, could result in consequences to the mother.
- It could also result in increased difficulty for the CPI in establishing some rapport with the father.
- Florida Statute directs investigators to inform parents of their rights and the department's responsibilities. The department has created pamphlets in three languages: English (CF/PI 175-32), Spanish (CF/PI 175-66), and Creole (CF/PI 175-69) which are available on DCF forms for downloading and dissemination.
- It is generally best to let parents know that at the end of the interview, you will review the next steps and their rights with them.
- With parents whose strong resistance appears related to their need for control you may on occasion have to go over the rights and responsibilities information prior to them allowing you access to their children.

## **Observation Skills**

- When conducting interview in a family's home, you must:
  - Observe the physical environment
  - The behavior of the people encountered
  - Interactions between the people – especially the child and caregivers

## Activity: Observations

### Directions:

- In your groups, discuss and document your ideas as to what observable information you are looking for in the home pertaining to:
  - Physical environment
  - Interactions among family members
  - Parent-child interactions

### Activity Notes:

Physical environment

Interactions among family members

Parent-child interactions

## **Activity: Observations of the Environment**

### **Directions:**

- Review each slide and state what you observe/notice about the photo.

### **Activity Notes:**

## **Activity: Observations of Interactions**

### **Directions:**

- While watching a video, based on a police call out for domestic violence write down your observations and any conclusions you have about the people in the video.

### **Activity Notes:**



## Observation

- Must be aware that there are some limitations to our observations.
- While observations are critical, we must be mindful as to how our observations are influencing our assessment.
- When we are in any setting with a child or family, and we are stranger, that in-and-of-itself introduces something that is “artificial.”
- The family would not act exactly the same way if we were not there.
- “Artificial settings” are also a common challenge in child welfare.
- Think of the child or family interviews that might be conducted in other places, a hospital setting, or an office.
- Sometimes children are placed in emergency shelter care, and your first in-depth interview will be in that setting.
- Always try to remember the child is likely in crisis, not in their home, and meeting with a perfect stranger – so take some extra time to engage and reassure them before starting your questions.
- We also have to be self-aware of any biases we may have in regard to the family and situation.
- There is a big difference between “trust but verify” (appropriate) and always being distrustful of parents’ motives (negatively biased).
- We have to be clear on what the observation means.
- Refraining from jumping to a conclusion one way or the other is key to unbiased observations--we have to clarify with the person what prompted their reactions (behavior or verbal statements).
- Never assume you know why someone did or said something.

## **CPI Practice Standards: Child Interviews**

- Standards to achieve with respect to an interview with an alleged child victim:
  - The interview was conducted within the assigned response time.
  - The alleged child victim was interviewed alone.
  - The interview was conducted in a manner that resulted in dependable information.

### **Activity: Alleged Child Victim Interviews**

#### **Directions:**

- Read the case notes for the pre-commencement work leading up to the interview with James and Byron.
- After reading the case notes complete the worksheet independently.

#### **Activity Notes:**

## **Sandler/Braun Chronological Notes, Investigation 2014**

**01.10.2014 08:15 AM**

Reviewed criminal history on all adult household members

Melanie: no criminal history

Bruce: Florida arrest history found

- 2005 for violence against others
- 2007 for disorderly intoxication in public
- 2007 Dui

Faxed request for records and full reports to Florida County Sheriff's Office.

Fax: 555.555.5555

### **Reviewed DCF history on the family**

**2009:** allegations associated with alleged child victim (ACV) James and alleged perpetrators (AP), his mother Melanie and maternal grandmother (MGM) Pam Block; Bruce not a member of the family at that time. Maltreatment allegations included Environmental Hazards and Inadequate Supervision re: child James who was 5 years old at the time of that report. The home was found to be somewhat cluttered and disorganized, but not hazardous and there was no information to support allegations of inadequate supervision or environmental hazards. The mother and MGM denied child is outside without adequate responsible supervision. They contended that either they or the neighbor is always outside with the child when the child is outside. The child reported the same. That information, however, was not confirmed with the neighbor or any other collateral source based on case documentation. Other relatives contacted as character witnesses for the mother's parenting and overall care reported positive interaction and appropriate care with no concerns for James' well-being. The investigation was closed with No Indicators on both maltreatment allegations and no referrals were made or services recommended.

**2012:** allegations associated with ACVs James Sandler and Byron Braun and AP Bruce Braun, James' step-father and Byron's biological father. Although 1 yr old Byron was listed as an ACV, there was no information in the initial hotline reports to indicate concern related to Byron or qualify that maltreatment allegation. Maltreatment allegations included Physical Injury and Substance Misuse-Alcohol. The initial report asserted that Bruce is an alcoholic and that at the time of the report, Bruce had been drinking and "beat up" James, then age 8. The investigation determined that Bruce and James became engaged in a yelling match. After numerous corrections and redirection with James by his mother, Melanie, and Stepfather, Bruce, that night, Bruce took James outside to talk with him about his behavior. James became argumentative and told Bruce that he didn't have to listen to him and that he would do what he wanted to do then turned to leave and go back inside. Bruce reached for James to continue talking to him and James yelled that he hated Bruce. Bruce and James

acknowledged that Bruce then struck James on the cheek with an open hand. All interviewed during the course of that investigation denied any previous similar incidents of physical discipline. It was determined, based on interviews, that while Bruce was drinking alcohol at the time of that incident, alcohol was not a factor in his reaction and was not determined to be a factor in his daily functioning. All interviewed agreed that James is disrespectful, mainly with his mother and Bruce. Regarding James' behavior, there was some discrepancy of information in that investigation where in fact, James' negative attention seeking behavior, outbursts and attitude transfers outside the home (grandmother had to send him home after visiting due to behavior) . Regarding Bruce's alcohol consumption and daily functioning, all interviewed denied concern and did not report any out of control behavior; Bruce acknowledged a prior arrests associated with alcohol in 2007 but alcohol was not determined to be a pattern or contributing factor. The investigation determined the preventative services would be beneficial to be parenting skills development focused on James' age range and understanding how to parent a child with ADHD or difficult behaviors. There was no information documented to determine impact on family or Byron. The main issue was determined to be associated with blended family parenting challenges. The report was closed with No Indicators of Substance Misuse-Alcohol and Not Substantiated Physical Injury. There were no injuries or redness reported or observed by law enforcement or family and all denied any previous history or concern, thus no established pattern of dangerous or abusive behavior. Family received some general family support services, home-based parenting services.

**Resources/Possible Collateral Contacts:**

Michael Sandler, biological father of ACV James  
Phone: 555.202.3521 or 555.228.1910

Pam Block, maternal grandmother (MGM)  
Phone: 555.504.8628

Duffy Sandler, James' paternal grandfather (PGF)  
Phone: 555.123.4567  
Ilene Sandler, James' paternal grandmother (PGM)  
Phone: 555.123.4567

Stephen Braun, Mr. Braun's brother, paternal uncle of ACV Byron and Shane  
Phone: 555.123.4567

**01.10.2014 08:30 AM**

Telephone contact with law enforcement (LE) officer George Watts, Badge No. 123 to discuss response to home, initial interviews, and outcome.

Officer Watts confirmed information in the intake and provided no additional information. He responded to the home. Took statements from everyone which were generally the same regarding what happened with only slight differences in the mother's and father's accounts. Things had calmed down and the father agreed to stay at a relative's home for the night.

**01.10.2014 09:00 AM**

Telephone contact with service provider from 2012 investigation, ABC Parenting home-based parent educator Janie Smith  
Phone: 555.555.5555

Ms. Smith reported working with the family for a period of 4 months in the home. Focused on parenting skills development for blended family with a child who exhibits challenging behaviors. Both parents accepted and completed in home parenting successfully with noted behavior changes with both parents. Those changes reflected positive reinforcement with James using a chore chart and the mother upholding consequences for the child when he did not complete his chores. Ms. Smith stated that overall, the family did well.

**01.10.2014 09:30 AM**

Pre-commencement consultation with supervisor, Tameka Thomas.

- Discussed escalating level of physical force used by Mr. Braun and problematic location of injuries to child victim (grabbing throat twice).
- Noted pattern in Mr. Braun's arrest history for violence against others in 2005 and disorderly intoxication in a public place which caused a disturbance in 2007 and while discounted, the allegation of alcohol abuse in the 2012 prior.
- Discussed plan of interviews.

**01.10.2014, 11:45 AM**

School visit

Case commenced at Florida City Elementary School; child James absent from school today.

Contacted school counselor Melanie Smith: James has minimal school absences and is has not been referred to counselor for any behavior, adjustment or learning challenges.

**Contacted school teacher James Madison:**

Mr. Madison stated that James is doing well academically with good grades. Socially, James has several friends who he hangs around with at lunch and on the playground. No major issues with James socially, although sometimes he gets picked on because of his weight which hurts his feelings. When that happens, James gets upset and becomes socially withdrawn, preferring to be alone. James has some problems attending to his classwork but Mr. Madison noted that it is manageable. When James gets distracted, Mr. Madison

allows him to walk around, to the bathroom or get a drink of water for a 5 minute break and when James returns, he dedicates himself to completing his tasks. Mr. Madison stated that James' behavior is on par in the classroom with most of the other students. He said James is a smart kid and that sometimes, James will get frustrated with other kids when they say or do something that James thinks is dumb so James will spontaneously say that to the student. Mr. Madison stated that James has homework most every night and believes that the supports he would need to be successful and stay on task to complete it would be quiet working environment. He did not know if James would require additional medication booster at home, but it would be important if the parents found that James was having a difficult time completing homework or tasks at home.

Mr. Madison stated that he sends home a weekly report to the parents that outlines positive and negative behavior observed at school and the outcomes. He stated that he has not had much interaction with the parents; however, an IEP meeting is scheduled to outline James' needs and supports. Both his mother and step-father are expected to attend.

#### **01.10.2014 12:00 PM**

Unannounced Home Visit (HV) to 200 Kettering Court, Florida City, FL.

Mother Melanie Braun and children James (10), Byron (3) and Shane (2 months) all home. Mr. Braun was not present and is reportedly temporarily staying with his mother after last night's incident.

Met with the mother and advised her of the investigative process was and what the role of the CPI was. Melanie was afraid that the Department was there to take her children from her. Melanie was assured that the Department wanted to help her family but that it was ultimately the Department's responsibility to ensure that her children were safe. The mother agreed to help with the investigative process as she was advised of her rights, and provided a rights and responsibilities pamphlet. Melanie advised she would review the pamphlet while this investigator interviewed the children and she would ask any questions if she had them. Melanie was helpful in identifying a private location to speak with her children and encouraged her children that it was ok to talk to this investigator.

#### **Interview with child James Sandler (10)**

James is a heavy set child with dark brown hair; he is wearing several bracelets up his arms and two necklaces. Last night, James was doing his homework and his mother showed Bruce his report card. His stepfather "started having a fit and yelling about straight A's and blah blah." "He told me I had 30 minutes to finish my homework." James responded "I am doing it". Bruce started yelling at him not to talk back and then started slapping and hitting him in the head and holding him by the front of the neck, shoving him into things. His mom tried to pull him off and Bruce started hitting her and slamming her against the glass door in the kitchen. James stated that his mother told him to go upstairs but when he tried to,

Bruce started throwing chairs in the way and came after him. James ran to his room and tried to lock the door, but Bruce rammed the door and knocked him down. Bruce picked James up by the front of the shirt and throat and tried to throw James on the bed. James said he got in the bed back in the corner and Bruce climbed up and was slapping him on his legs and arms. Melanie pulled Bruce off him again and Bruce went downstairs. The neighbors Megan and Tony came over and Bruce started yelling at people. Bruce left with Grandma Leann.

James thinks Bruce is mean. Mean to him and to Melanie. Mean by spanking hard with an open hand on his butt and slapping his face. Mean to mom by slapping her (1<sup>st</sup> time he remembers) and argues with her and makes her cry. He stated he felt scared last night. Normally, not scared but uncomfortable because Bruce yells a lot. James said he feels he is treated differently than Byron and Shane because he gets yelled at and slapped more and nothing they do is wrong. He stated that he recognizes he talks back sometimes but he is just expressing his opinion. He doesn't think he should get spanked or slapped for it. Mother sticks up for him with Bruce "if he crosses the line." James said things have never got this bad before but that sometimes Bruce will throw things and get angry or frustrated. He said he isn't home on the weekends so he doesn't know if Bruce gets drunk or not except when his mom tells him.

Observation of Injuries: two light scratches across right forearm from Bruce's finger nail when Bruce reached for him, according to James; one light scratch from left ear to shoulder that James stated resulted from Bruce's finger nail when Bruce was trying to hold him on the bed; slight red mark approximately the size of a nickel on right side of face near jaw line which James stated was probably from when Bruce was holding his face.

James said he makes friends easily and has a lot of them. He is in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade and his favorite subject is math. He said he makes A's and B's and thinks that is good enough. He said that his favorite activities include riding his bike and video games. He is in Boy Scouts and Bruce is the den leader. He described himself as "smart." He said he likes to teach Byron how to play video games and sometimes helps his mom watch the baby.

James stated that he takes medication for him to pay attention and stay focused. He said he doesn't really notice a difference from when he isn't taking them but everybody else says they notice a difference in his ability to stay focused and finish his work.

He said his mom or Bruce usually wakes him in the morning for school, he gets dressed, brushes his teeth then goes downstairs for breakfast. He said mom usually makes breakfast or cereal and he takes the bus to and from school. When he gets home from school, he said usually his mom helps him with homework if he needs it. When he's finished his homework he can play video games until bedtime at 9:00. He said he doesn't have any chores.

James described both parents as working with his MGM taking care of him and his brothers after school or on the weekends until his mom gets off of work. He said they have a lot of friends and that the family spends time at his Uncle Steven's house on weekends. He said he knows what alcohol is – "makes people laugh and act stupid." He said his mother doesn't drink but that Bruce will have a couple of beers every night and a lot of beer every weekend. He said he has never seen his mom or Bruce get in a fight and hit each other until last night. He said they usually yell at each other, but that's it. He said that when Bruce gets mad, he sometimes throws things like the chairs but not at anybody, just out of the way.

Mother sticks up for him with Bruce and doesn't spank him usually. He said except for Bruce being mean by spanking him hard with an open hand on his butt, he likes Bruce. He said he and Bruce do a lot of Boy Scout activities together and have a good time earning badges and camping. He said both Bruce and his mother take good care of him and his brothers and they always eat dinner as a family. He said that on most weekends, he goes to his MGM's house. He provided that his biological father lives there also with his MGM so he gets to spend time with him as well. He said he likes to go to his MGM's home because she lets him do what he wants and he plays video games or watches TV.

### **Interview with Byron Braun (3)**

Byron is observed in t-shirt and jeans; he was playing in the living room by himself and would join CPI and mother in dining area to sit near his mother. He was observed to be within normal limits for height and weight. Child has blond hair. Byron is talkative with his family but did not want to talk about the incident last night. When asked what happened last night, he just said "daddy went to grandma's house." His language development was sufficient enough say more but he clearly did not want to talk about it. He engaged CPI somewhat by showing her toys, talking about his toys and his new baby brother. He demonstrated gross and fine motor skills through walking, climbing and jumping as well as eating finger foods from a bowl. He demonstrated good problem solving skills in that he figured out how to reach a book from a higher shelf by finding a stool and climbing up to get it; combined with his speech and socialization skills he appeared within normal limits for his cognitive development.

### **Observation of Shane Braun (2 months)**

Shane is observed in a onesie with pants; he was feeding from a bottle during part of the visit and resting on his belly in a pack-n-play located in the family room. Child was observed feeding and interacting positively with his mom smiling when she "cooed" at him and following her intently with his eye movements. He appeared clean and recently bathed. There were no obvious physical, cognitive, or other developmental concerns noted nor any information provided by Mrs. Braun to indicate an issue or concern.



## **Interview with Alleged Child Victim Worksheet**

### **1. Information regarding extent of maltreatment**

Identify type(s) of maltreatment; details about symptoms (injuries, conditions present); details about severity; maltreating caregiver.

Information Learned:

Information Gaps:

Discrepancies:

Validate/Corroborate:

### **2. Information regarding circumstances surrounding the maltreatment**

Information Learned:

Information Gaps:

Discrepancies:

Validate/Corroborate:

### **3. Information regarding how the child functions on a daily basis**

Refers to physical, emotional, and social development; predominant behavior; peer and school behavior; mood and temperament; speech and communication; vulnerability; general behavior; daily routines and habits; ability to self-protect.

Information Learned:

Information Gaps:

Discrepancies:

Validate/Corroborate:

#### **4. Information regarding how the adults function on a daily basis**

Refers to general behavior; cultural identity and connectedness; daily routine and habits; communication; emotional control and presentation; social support and relationships; problem solving skills; abilities to manage stress; general issues to be considered (medical, mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence, anger, financial and job hardships, and criminal activity).

Information Learned:

Information Gaps:

Discrepancies:

Validate/Corroborate:

#### **5. Information regarding general parenting (do not include discipline)**

Refers to parenting style and approach; knowledge of child development and parenting age appropriateness; parenting satisfaction, interest, and motivation; sensitive to child's needs and limitations; realistic expectations; parent skill and creativity; past parenting experiences.

Information Learned:

Information Gaps:

Discrepancies:

Validate/Corroborate:

**6. Information regarding management of child's behavior and parental disciplinary practices?**

Refers to discipline methods; intent; attitudes and expectations about discipline; purposes for discipline; creativity and versatility; age appropriateness.

Information Learned:

Information Gaps:

Discrepancies:

Validate/Corroborate:

**7. For purposes of safety planning, persons child feels close to who could be a safety plan provider.**

**8. How would the information learned from child inform the next interviews and other CPI activities?**

**Indicate a “Yes” or “No” for each bulleted item.**

Child was interviewed:

- In response timeframe
- Alone
- Interview resulted in dependable information

## **Activity: Interview with Parent (Non-maltreating)**

### **Directions:**

- Read the case notes for the interview with Melanie.
- Complete the associated worksheet independently.

### **Activity Notes:**

### **Interview with Melanie Sandler Braun (Mother)**

Yesterday, Bruce went to meet a friend, Ed Barth, for lunch where she said he had 8 beers but left at 3:00 pm. She doesn't know where he went after Ed's. At 3:30, Ed called to see if Bruce made it home, but Melanie hadn't heard from him; when he drinks, he won't answer his phone. Melanie stated she'd gotten a text at noon that his phone was going to die. Bruce ended up going to meet his brother Steven after he left Ed's. Bruce came home around 8:00 pm and she was on the couch nursing Shane; Melanie asserted that Bruce had been drinking since noon.

Melanie stated that last night she did not make dinner, made frozen pizza and asked if he wanted one; he went take a shower. She said she heard a loud noise that sounded like he had fallen, but he denied that and told her he dropped something in the shower. Bruce came back downstairs after showering.

James didn't want to do his homework and had been sitting at the table doing nothing for over an hour. James has ADHD and takes medication, but by that time of night, the meds have usually worn off. Bruce told James that he had 30 minutes to finish his homework and needed to go to bed.

James also got his report card that day and he had 1 A and the rest B's. "That started it." Because Bruce and I both think James should have gotten straight As. Bruce and James went back and forth about the grades and it kept going on. James said he was trying, with an attitude, and Bruce flew off the rocker, raced toward James yelling, "Don't talk back to me," and "I'm tired of the way you talk to me" then Bruce slapped James across the top of his head. Melanie grabbed Bruce's shoulder and told him to walk away. Byron (3 years) was crying saying "leave Bubba alone" but Bruce wouldn't listen. He pushed Melanie up against the sliding glass door and slapped her across the face three times and said "I don't care."

At that time, Melanie told James to go upstairs. James got so upset that he had thrown up in his mouth and Bruce wouldn't let James go by and get upstairs. Melanie tried to get James a pot to throw up in and Bruce threw the pot.

Then Bruce started throwing the chair. Byron (3) was hysterical, just crying and calling for Melanie, Shane (baby) on the couch was crying

Bruce chased James up the stairs and Melanie checked on the 2 little kids then took off up after James and Bruce. When she got to the room, Bruce was trying to throw James onto the bed and had a hand around his neck. When Melanie tried to stop Bruce and push him away from James, Bruce pushed her down. She somehow got Bruce out of the room and he shoved her in the hallway on his way downstairs

Bruce then went downstairs and picked up the baby Shane to comfort him; Melanie followed downstairs and took the baby and Bruce went outside to smoke. When he did that, Melanie asked Byron (3) to lock the door.

Melanie was on the stairs calling Bruce's mother to come to the home to get him. She also called her mother, Pam Block. When she arrived, Melanie's mother called the police who responded.

Bruce's mother: Leann Beys Phone: 555.123.4567

Melanie's mother: Pam Block

Leann, Bruce's mother, was verbally aggressive toward Melanie yelling, "You know how he is when he drinks!" "Why did you let this happen?" then she and Bruce left.

Melanie's mother came over and after law enforcement (LE) left, Melanie went to the ER to have her fingers x-rayed. Her pinky finger is broken but she is unsure how it happened; however, was certain it happened during the various scuffles.

Melanie stated she was not sure if Bruce was arrested or what they were going to do; Bruce was gone already when LE responded. LE just took their statements and said he would file his report after talking with Bruce.

Melanie remembered that there has been one other incident but it wasn't physical and Bruce was drunk then, too. He fell down in the kitchen and was throwing dishes and tried to throw the microwave. That was about 7 months ago and no one was around but her. She stated it was late and the kids were sleeping when Bruce came home drunk. She stated he was hungry and trying to make something in the microwave but he couldn't figure out how to turn it on so got frustrated and tried to pick up the microwave and throw it. When that didn't work, he threw his dishes at the wall because he got frustrated and impatient.

There was only one other time Bruce was sort of physical with James, about 3 months ago Bruce snapped one of James' toys because Bruce was trying to talk to James about his behavior or attitude and James kept ignoring Bruce and playing with his toy in Bruce's face. Bruce got frustrated and snapped the toy. Melanie denied that Bruce was drinking during that incident. She noted that Bruce's brother, Steven, was around. Bruce got mad at James and spanked him with an open hand on James' bottom "like 5 swats." When Bruce and James go at each other, Melanie stated she tries to step in and correct James especially when he mouths off. She is usually able to calm Bruce down; she doesn't like confrontation.

Melanie stated Bruce had always been a drinker, but things have gotten worse lately. He stopped drinking completely before Byron was born, but then began drinking again socially about a year ago, but only on weekends and never around the kids. She stated that this is the first time that she would say he was drunk since Shane was born. She stated when she first met him, he drank occasionally and was never violent, even when he drank. She stated he rarely drank during the week and maintained a good job, "he works hard." Melanie provided that he has routinely been a "weekend binge drinker" and when he does that, he will sometimes not remember what he did, where he went. He used to drink hard liquor but he was rude and unbearable, so now only drinks beer. Melanie described that some weekends, he'll drink with friends and there will be no problems, but sometimes, like last night, things will get out of control. Melanie stated it only related to James and James' attitude towards Bruce or her. James' behavior drives Bruce crazy especially when he's drinking.

Bruce doesn't seem to get that when he behaves the way he does, like last night hitting, yelling, chasing and throwing things – it scares Byron (3). Today, Byron was asking if his dad was going to hit him like he hit 'bubba' – Bruce needs to understand how his behavior impacts his kids and his relationship with me and with all of his kids.

When Bruce is drinking, he will sometimes scream and yell about nothing, impatient, but he is not usually physically abusive or aggressive. He just has no patience when he is drinking and gets verbally aggressive. For example, Melanie stated that Bruce does not engage in name-calling to her, ever, but last night he called her a "fat bitch" – that was the first time he has ever said anything like that. He usually tells her she is beautiful and loves her just the way she is.

Melanie stated that Bruce hasn't done this in about a year, last time she did not call law enforcement (LE). This time, like the last time a year ago, he knocks things off tables, throws chairs. No one has ever been hurt.

He called this morning and doesn't remember hitting her. Last night as he was slapping her in the face, he was saying he doesn't care anymore. "Everyone probably says this when they're being investigated by CPS, but he is a really nice person." Bruce is not aggressive



toward his biological children (Byron and Shane) but is with James at times. Melanie does not think Bruce targets James as a step-child, "James is just older and he is a handful, disrespectful and can give a lot of attitude" to both Melanie and Bruce.

Melanie described Bruce's drinking habits as weekend binge drinking, rarely with physical violence, regularly with impatience and yelling "at anything" Melanie stated that Bruce drinks around his brother Steven Braun because his brother condones it to spite her because his brother doesn't like her. Melanie thinks Bruce's brother tries to interfere in her relationship with Bruce and uses drinking to do it. Melanie stated Bruce drinks beer mostly; sometimes hard liquor and when he drinks hard liquor he gets 'the rage' so he stopped drinking hard liquor before Byron was born. She stated he only drinks on the weekend, if he drinks. If he drinks Thursday, he won't drink Friday; typical drinking pattern is heavy one night, then too hung over to drink again.

Bruce works at Florida City Concrete; he didn't go to work today; he has not been working much lately because it has been raining; he usually works 4/10 hour shifts, but lately been working less than 30 hours due to the rain. She denied he has had any work related issues associated with his drinking and has never missed a day of work resulting from excessive drinking. "Bruce is a hard worker."

Bruce and Melanie married since Sept, 4 years ago; met him at Karaoke night and they dated on/off 1.5 years.

When she and Bruce disagree or argue, to resolve conflict with each other she usually sends him out to drive and cool off and he comes home and apologizes and says it won't happen again and it will stop "until he is drinking and something frustrates him" she thinks he is an alcoholic because of how his personality changes when he is drinking from when he is not drinking. When he drinks, he sometimes gets aggressive like he did last night. He will also blacks out sometimes when he gets really drunk. They never argue over money – usually about issues with James. James has a smart mouth and Bruce doesn't believe in ADHD and medication and psychiatrists. This year, 99% of every argument comes back to James. Melanie stated that Bruce's brother Steven is an alcoholic and his sister is a drug addict. Melanie thinks that Bruce sometimes picks fights with James. She doesn't think James is a bad kid.

This is Melanie's second marriage. She was married to James' father, Michael Sandler for a time, but he suffers from severe depression and bipolar disorder and they could not get along.

Melanie works at Publix at Town Center for last 2 years; she just went back to work from maternity leave; she doesn't drink but there is always beer in the refrigerator She has several friends she leans on for support in addition to her mother; Ed Barth and her friend Alicia Marsen. They work together. She said she confides in Ed "he knows all the stuff" from our arguments about James and how Bruce and James challenge each other,

Bruce's impatience with James, he knows about Bruce's drinking and how he acts when he drinks. Melanie stated she tries not to talk with her mother Pam Block because all her mother says is that Melanie needs to leave Bruce and divorce him. "My mom is very protective of James"

Melanie copes with stress by "crying" "I cry a lot." Her father just passed away right before Christmas so she has periods of sadness. Usually when she gets time by herself, she will think about her dad or what is happening in her relationship and she will cry.

Melanie is on thyroid medication; only meds she is taking; had "baby blues" when Byron (3) was born and was prescribed antidepressants but has been off that medication for over a year; not experiencing "baby blues" with Shane, but with Byron, she had just lost her job and was under a lot of stress. She acknowledged that she thinks she has a little depression because she had to go back to work so soon, but denied suicidal or homicidal thoughts.

Melanie and James' biological father Michael both have learning disabilities. Mother has dyslexia. Graduated from FSU with BA in Fashion Merchandising.

James' father is Michael Sandler and he lives with her mother, Pam Block. Michael Sandler suffers from severe depression and that is why she and he divorced – he is bipolar. They have shared custody, but since the court order, he hasn't wanted regular visits. He sees James when James goes to visit her mother; Melanie's mother and Michael are still really close. Melanie stated that her mother and Michael were close and when things didn't work out with her and Michael, her mother offered Michael to live with her because he was not working and his parents did not have the space to let him stay with them. She and Michael were never enemies and it didn't seem weird to either of them that he would stay with her mom for a while.

Melanie described her childhood as having divorced parents when she was 2 years old; said she is extremely close with her mother. Her mother never remarried because men she dated didn't treat her well enough; Melanie's grandmother took on the role of parent for a couple of years after her father left because her mom needed help financially and with daily activities. When Melanie was an adult, her mother had been hospitalized for depression after her own parents died and she took care of her mother during that time. She and her father kept in contact until she was 16, no arguments. He remarried and divorced again and his second divorce was horrible. They reconnected again 3-4 years ago when she found him on Facebook. About 3 weeks ago she went to lunch with her dad and they decided to keep in contact. Then, next thing she knew he had a heart attack.

She was picked on as a child for being overweight– used to eat lunch by herself and that used to hurt her feelings. Her mother and grandmother were always supportive and helpful

Melanie described herself as a warm, caring, non-confrontational person who is having a hard time keeping things calm between her husband and her son.

She described parenting as rewarding (e.g., “How much I am loved”) and it is very hurtful when James tells her he hates her. She thinks James intentionally tries to make her cry. Byron (3) picks up on it and Melanie has caught him parroting some of James’ comments back to Melanie; Byron is into everything, exploring his world and figuring out how things work.

Melanie describes Bruce as family oriented, involved with Boy Scouts. She described Bruce as an exceptional parent, involved in the daily activities, spends quality time with all 3 of the kids. She said they play together, and are always laughing. She denied that Bruce is ever frustrated or irritable with either Byron or Shane’s behavior. She described him as patient and engaged in teaching Byron and caring for Shane.

They usually have dinner together as a family but she and Bruce rarely have ‘dates’.

Melanie thinks it might look like James is a target child but given the age discrepancy of their kids, James is the only child in their family of an age where “attitude” and “talking back” behaviors are triggers for both Melanie and Bruce

Melanie described Bruce and James’ relationship day in and day out as “normal” – nothing really out of the ordinary. Bruce works a lot. He is great with the kids, even James. He only gets really frustrated when James gets mouthy and disrespectful and won’t stop. Melanie stated that things have never escalated to the point they did last night whether Bruce was drinking or not. Bruce will discipline James and she is usually ok with the discipline. She does not think James is a bad kid, neither does Bruce, but Bruce believes that James lacks structure and accountability “and he’s probably right, but I don’t know that my way or Bruce’s way are the best ways to help James develop that.”

Melanie discussed Bruce and James’ relationship prior to their marriage (James was 4) when they lived together and said “it was fine. There were no problems like today. James was a different kid then – he was only 4.” Before Byron born, when James was about 8, Bruce and James’ their relationship changed, James became more confrontational and started pushing buttons, arguing, being disrespectful.

Her philosophy on discipline is that she does not believe in spanking, she struggled with it but she said sometimes the only way to get across to James is to spank him. She has spanked James and Bruce spans James. After the spankings, the immediate issue is usually resolved. She stated that spanking is the exception to the rule. That generally, they try to talk with James, will give him a consequence or remove a privilege. She said that James becomes apologetic for his behavior. Melanie was never spanked as a child. They have not

used physical discipline with Byron, they talk with him and sit him in time out for 3 minutes. Byron will sit for the 3 minutes and then be up and exploring again.

James in 5<sup>th</sup> grade; Melanie said his favorite subject is math and he does not like writing; he has a lot of homework and is on a 504 plan at school. They have a conference scheduled next week. James' favorite activities include riding his bike and video games. He is in Boy Scouts with Bruce as the den leader. James gives her no trouble going to bed.

Melanie stated James has a smart mouth and Bruce doesn't believe in ADHD and medication and psychiatrists. James' psychiatrist is Dr. Diego at Florida City Psychiatric. He is prescribed Concerta 18.5 mg/ Ritalin booster at school. He has severe asthma and utilizes a nebulizer and Xopenex. She described James symptoms as not staying focused on anything. He is easily distracted, doesn't finish projects or activities or schoolwork because his attention wanders. Melanie has seen an improvement in James' ability to stay on task, to focus and to complete his homework. On the weekends, they do not give James his medication "to give him a break" During the weekends, James usually stays busy playing on the video game for hours so they don't really see his attention issue. During the week, once James gets home, the meds have usually worn off and he will have a hard time staying focused or completing tasks, like his homework last night where he just sat at the table for hours, not accomplishing anything.

Melanie stated that at school, he is able to stay on task. He doesn't talk out of turn as much. He used to just blurt out answers or randomly get up from his seat and walk around, open things and just "be all over the place" She was not sure what the teacher does in classroom to help him learn and she is not aware of any continuing or recurring behavior problems in school.

She stated that his diagnosis came about right about the time he started school because of what she noted earlier – he would not stay on task, he would be into everything at school, randomly get up, could not focus and complete work, could not sit still for 5 much less 20 minutes so the teachers asked her to have him evaluated. She was having evaluated for learning disabilities and they recommended she have him tested for ADHD, also. She talked to several friends and they recommended a psychiatrist so she took James there and told the doctor about the behaviors James was exhibiting at school.

She thinks James is a smart kid who just doesn't apply himself and goofs off a lot like last night. She and Bruce both think James should be making all As and that he is deliberately underachieving.

Melanie said James has an ugly side and she believes James says hurtful things to her like "I hate you" and intentionally tries to make her cry. Melanie described James as needy, a momma's boy, complete opposite personality type from Bruce. She said that James will

often use things she mentions to James about Bruce or Bruce's drinking or his family or something she might be upset about and tell Bruce about it to create an argument. Bruce's mother makes it known that she does not like James and her negative attitude became more evident after the marriage.

Byron had staph infection (MRSA) when he was younger. Byron loves the singer Adelle. Byron is 'into everything'. He seems to pick up on James being mean and saying hurtful things to Melanie and it is very frustrating for Melanie. Byron was described as independent, very smart, potty trained at 2 years old, sees his brother doing things and emulates his brother's behavior - good and bad behavior. Gives her no trouble going to bed.

Shane has no health issues. Shane sleeps in his crib but often as soon as she puts him down, he often wakes up crying; she thinks he may have colic. She soothes him by rocking or holding him and he will sleep on her shoulder or in his bassinette which is the family room. He is breast fed

Pediatrician for all children is Florida City Pediatrics. None of the children have learning disabilities; James was tested because his father and she had learning disabilities (dyslexia).

She doesn't know when Bruce is planning to come home. Bruce is planning to come over to the home today with his mother to get some of his things. James is worried that Bruce will take the Play Station but Bruce would never do that. She has been putting up with stuff from Bruce because of the kids. She is worried now about money, about how they will manage and afford things.

Mother wants Bruce to get help for his drinking and anger when he drinks; she loves him very much, so it is hard to walk away. Thinks Bruce and James need counseling. She feels like she is in the middle and torn between the two. She said Bruce is very remorseful afterward, today. She thinks he means it; it is like he is a different person when he is drunk.

#### Physical Environment:

The home was observed with no obvious dangerous environmental or structural hazards. The home was in some disarray due to the disturbance the night before in that the kitchen table was pushed out of the way, the chairs were scattered and one was overturned. Melanie noted that when Bruce got up to confront James, he pushed the table and several chairs out of the way.

Byron and James share a room and have bunk beds. Shane has a crib in his parents' room. CPI discussed safe sleep practices and "back to sleep"; informed on overlay, preventable accidental child fatality; sleep positioning correlated with sudden unexplained infant death and provided several brochures regarding same.

Note: During interview with mother Melanie, James kept interrupting and Melanie told him several times to stop.

Collateral Resources:

PGM Leann Beys

PU Steven Braun

MGM Pam Block

Family Friend, Ed Barth

Neighbors who responded last night, Megan and Tony Wilson, address: 206 Kettering Court.

**01.10.2014 2:30 PM**

Telephone Contact – Supervisor Consultation Scott Vergas, CPIS

## **Activity: Interview with Parent (Non-maltreating) Worksheet**

### **1. Information regarding extent of maltreatment**

Identification of type(s) of maltreatment; details about symptoms (injuries, conditions present); details about severity; identifying the maltreating caregiver.

Information Learned:

Information Gaps:

Discrepancies:

Validate:

## **2. Information regarding circumstances surrounding the maltreatment**

Refers to circumstances and events associated with the maltreatment (where, when, who, how, who saw, what led to the event, where were other family members); duration of maltreatment; patterns and length of time any type of maltreatment has been occurring (include reported and unreported CPS history); child explanation for maltreatment and what led up to it, other times it has happened, who else observed or knows).

Information Learned:

Information Gaps:

Discrepancies:

Validate:



### **3. Information regarding how the child functions on a daily basis**

Refers to physical, emotional, and social development; predominant behavior; peer and school behavior; mood and temperament; speech and communication; vulnerability; general behavior; daily routines and habits; ability to self-protect.

Information Learned:

Information Gaps:

Discrepancies:

Validate:

#### **4. Information regarding how the adults function on a daily basis**

Refers to general behavior; cultural identity and connectedness; daily routine and habits; communication; emotional control and presentation; social support and relationships; problem solving skills; abilities to manage stress; general issues to be considered (medical, mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence, anger, financial and job hardships, and criminal activity).

Information Learned:

Information Gaps:

Discrepancies:

Validate:

## **5. Information regarding general parenting (do not include discipline)**

Refers to parenting style and approach; knowledge of child development and parenting age appropriateness; parenting satisfaction, interest, and motivation; sensitive to child's needs and limitations; realistic expectations; parent skill and creativity; past parenting experiences.

Information Learned:

Information Gaps:

Discrepancies:

Validate:

**6. Information regarding management of child's behavior and parental disciplinary practices?**

Refers to discipline methods; intent; attitudes and expectations about discipline; purposes for discipline; creativity and versatility; age appropriateness.

Information Learned:

Information Gaps:

Discrepancies:

Validate:

**7. For purposes of safety planning**

Information as to this person's ability to care for and protect the child, including adequate knowledge, skills, resources, ability to address special needs, is aligned with child, would be able to carry out safety plan actions.

**8. How would the information learned from this interview inform the next interviews?**

## **Present Danger Criteria**

- Remember the distinction between present danger and impending danger.
- Present danger means that the CPI knows right now, based on what they are seeing and what they have learned thus far, that a child is in present danger.
- A determination of present danger means that the CPI must act now to ensure that a safety plan is developed to protect the child during the time that further information is gathered to make an impending danger determination.
- The non-maltreating parent, other friends or relatives may have immediately rallied and created a means of protecting the child from the perpetrator.
- Until the CPI is able to gather further information about the parent and others responsible for the child, a present danger threat exists.
- Any safety plan developed by the family must be reviewed and endorsed by the CPI.

## Activity #7: Identifying Present Danger

### Directions:

- Use the chrono notes of the child victims and non-maltreating parent interviews as a basis for determining the identification of present danger and the need for a Present Danger Safety Plan.
- Individually answer Questions 1 -4.

### Activity Notes:

1. Fill out the Present Danger Assessment for any threats marked “yes.” Describe how they are present.
2. Who is/are the vulnerable child(ren) and why?
3. Is immediate action required?
4. If there is no Present Danger, explain your reasoning.



## FLORIDA SAFETY DECISION MAKING METHODOLOGY

### Child Present Danger Assessment

**Case Name:** Sandler, Melanie  
**Worker Name:** Garrett, Kelly  
**Intake/Investigation ID:** 2014-000001

**FSFN Case ID:** 100234567  
**Assessment Date:** 01.10.2014  
**Completed Date:** 01.10.2014

#### IDENTIFICATION OF THREATS OF DANGER TO A CHILD

##### I. DANGER THREATS

*(Severity and significance of diminished Parent/Legal Guardian Protective Capacities as it relates to child vulnerability which creates a threat to child safety. The vulnerability of each child needs to be considered throughout information collection and assessment)*

Yes No

- |                          |                          |   |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Parent/Legal Guardian/Caregiver is not meeting child's basic and essential needs for food, clothing and/or supervision and child is/has already been seriously harmed or will likely be seriously harmed.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Parent/Legal Guardian/Caregiver's intentional and willful act caused serious physical injury to the child, or the caregiver intended to seriously injure the child.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Parent/Legal Guardian/Caregiver is violent, impulsive, or acting dangerously in ways that have seriously harmed the child or will likely seriously harm the child.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Parent/Legal Guardian/Caregiver is threatening to seriously harm the child; Parent/Legal Guardian is fearful he/she will seriously harm the child.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. 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.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Child shows serious emotional symptoms requiring immediate intervention and/or lacks behavioral control and/or exhibits self-destructive behavior that Parent/Legal Guardian/Caregiver is unwilling or unable to manage.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. 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.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 8. 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.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 9. There are reports of serious harm and the child's whereabouts cannot be ascertained and/or there is a 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. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 10. 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.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 11. Other. Explain:   |



## Supervisor Case Consultation

- If the CPI is not sure if a danger threat exists then it is absolutely critical that a supervisor consultation take place to help the CPI/CPIS process the information known at that time.
- Consultations can take place at any point in time but are generally conducted at all critical junctures of the investigation that require major decision to be made.
- The first consultation conducted was prior to the investigator commencing the investigation so it is referred to as the Pre-Commencement Consultation.
- If a consultation is completed after commencement, it is called an Initial Consultation.
- An 'Initial' consultation is required to be conducted by your supervisor within five days of the report initially becoming available to you.
  - What is the status of information collection at the time of the consultation?
  - Who has the CPI interviewed or contacted?
  - Can the CPI clearly describe the negative condition(s) that he/she believes currently endangers the child?
  - What is the condition of the child and how does the child's condition fit with the definition for Present Danger?
  - What is the condition of the caregiver(s) and how does the caregiver(s) condition fit with the definition for Present Danger?
  - Based on what the CPI is describing, does the danger seem currently active, reasonable and vivid?
  - Is the CPI describing a family circumstance and/or an aspect of caregiver functioning that is currently and/or actively threatening child safety?
  - Does the CPI feel compelled to take action immediately to assure the protection of the child?
  - If the CPI were to take no action based on what is being considered during the consultation, what can be anticipated to occur with respect to the concerning family conditions and potential effects on the child?

## Present Danger Safety Plan

- The present danger safety plan is intended to be a short term solution to control for child safety and sustain the family while the FFA is being developed.
- At this point in the investigation, it is likely to be more intrusive as we don't yet know what the protective capacities of the parents are.
- Even so, we will attempt to create the least intrusive plan given what we do know. Either:

- a responsible adult comes into the home
  - the maltreating caregiver leaves the home
  - the child goes to stay with a responsible adult
  - the child and parent go stay with a responsible adult
- When the maltreating person is not the child's parent/legal guardian, the department must seek an injunction to compel the person to not have contact with the child.
- An injunction is not in-and-of-itself a sufficient safety plan as injunctions are so often violated.
- With present danger, we need a safety plan to control what is happening during the time it will take the CPI to fully develop the assessment of family functioning and protective capacities.

## Activity #8: Present Danger Planning

### Directions:

- Using your Present Danger Assessment and the discussion with the mother regarding present danger, create safety actions for any present dangers.

### Activity Notes:

### Continuation of Interview with Melanie – Present Danger Planning

CPI discussed with the mother that the Department needed to ensure that her children were safe and that treatment and counseling, while progress towards behavior change, wouldn't protect her and the children now. Melanie helped devise a strategy on how the children could be protected. CPI and mother contacted Ed and MGM as immediate and available resources to respond to the home should Bruce show up unsupervised and they agreed to stop by the house daily to check on the mother and children. Pam also agreed to assist with visitation. Melanie reviewed and signed the safety plan.

She said she is not scared of Bruce but she was last night. But normally, even if he is drinking, she isn't scared of him. James spends most every weekend with his MGM Pam Block to prevent him from being around at those times Bruce might be drinking since when Bruce drinks he becomes less patient and he and James antagonize each other.

Melanie did not think Bruce would disagree with the plan and believes he will cooperate. She stated he may not agree he has a problem with alcohol, but he will cooperate with the plan.

Talked with Melanie about investigation next steps and additional interviews. Discussed some possible community or home-based services that may benefit the family.

Discussed Child Protection Team (CPT) referral for James given the incident and location of minor injuries noted. Scheduled CPT 01.15.2015, 2:00PM. CPI will meet mother and James at CPT office

**01.10.2014 3:00 PM**

Collateral contact with neighbors Megan and Tony Wilson

Address: 206 Kettering, Florida City, FL

Mrs. Wilson was home and stated that she and her husband, Tony, went over to Bruce and Melanie's home when they saw Bruce outside pacing the driveway and smoking. They stopped to ask him if anything was wrong, did he need to talk with someone. Bruce told them to "mind their own damn business" and proceeded to walk away. Mrs. Wilson stated that they haven't known Melanie and Bruce very long but that they both seem like good people, and were shocked by Bruce's reaction because generally he is soft-spoken and has already treated them nicely. In fact, they've been over to each other's houses for dinner once or twice and found Melanie and Bruce to be a loving couple, nurturing to their kids. Megan said that Bruce didn't really say anything after he walked off but that there was a lot going on with Bruce's mother, Melanie's mother and the police coming out last night. They offered to take the kids for the night to allow Bruce and Melanie some time to work things out. Megan stated she isn't aware of any ongoing issues with her neighbors and this is the first time she has noticed LE there.



# FLORIDA SAFETY DECISION MAKING METHODOLOGY

## Child Safety Plan

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Case Name:	Intake/Investigation ID:	
Worker Name:	Effective Date:	
Safety Plan Purpose:	Safety Plan Type:	Individual(s) Family

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Child Name	Date of Birth	Age

### I. DANGER THREAT(S) DESCRIPTION

Specific Threats to Child Safety – Describe safety concerns that would pose present or impending danger

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Actions to Keep Child Safe	Who is Responsible for the Action?	Resources or People Who Will Help	Freq. of Intervention

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### III. TERMINATION

Termination Date:

Reason Plan is No Longer Required:

Other Reason Plan is No Longer Required:

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#### IV. SIGNATURES

Caregiver:	Date:
Caregiver:	Date:
Other:	Date:
Other:	Date:
Other:	Date:
Worker:	Date:
Supervisor:	Date:

Worker will provide a copy to persons included in the plan to ensure child safety

Original: Caregiver

Copy: File

#### CPI Practice Standards Present Danger Planning

- Practice standards associated with a Present Danger Plan:
  - It is appropriate and sufficient to manage for safety while impending danger assessment (information collection) proceeds.



## **Present Danger Plan Sufficiency**

- The present danger plan clearly identifies the danger threat and the person responsible for the danger, when the threat occurs (if there is a pattern) and how the actions of other persons can control the threat.
- If a child is going to remain in the care of the non-maltreating parent, while the maltreating parent leaves the home, the CPI must be able to determine that the non-maltreating parent is willing, reliable and aligned with the child and the need to protect the child from the perpetrator's behaviors.
- In such cases, maltreating parents must be willing to temporarily leave the home, and the safety plan developed will address where the maltreating parent will go and who else will hold the perpetrator accountable for remaining out of the home during the time that the family is further assessed by the CPI.

### **Activity #9: Assessment of Present Danger Safety Planning**

#### **Directions:**

- Review the case notes from the CPI's interview with the alleged perpetrator, James' stepfather, and Paternal Grandmother.
- Upon completion of the review of the case notes, complete the Assessment of Present Danger Safety Planning worksheet.

#### **Activity Notes:**

## Interview with Bruce Braun

Bruce went to meet a friend, Ed Barth, for lunch where he said he had a few beers then he ended up going to meet his brother Steven after he left Ed's. Bruce came home around 8:00pm and went upstairs to take a shower. When he came downstairs again, Melanie told him about James' report card of 1A and all Bs which they both believe is James "not trying hard enough because he is a smart kid." Melanie then told him that James had been sitting at the table "not doing homework" for 2 hours, just playing and sitting there doing nothing. Bruce said he told James that he had 30 minutes to finish his homework and needed to go to bed. Bruce said when he said that, James immediately yelled "I'm trying!" and rolled his eyes, to which Bruce said he reacted and started yelling at James for being disrespectful to Melanie and him.

Bruce stated that he told James "Don't talk back to me," and "I'm tired of the way you talk to me" then Bruce slapped James one time across the top of his head "to get his attention" and stood there. He stated Melanie grabbed his shoulder and told him to walk away. He said that Melanie told him that he pushed Melanie up against the sliding glass door and slapped her across the face three times at that point, but that he did not remember doing that.

Bruce got visibly upset and said he has never hit Melanie and cannot believe he would ever do such a thing. He acknowledged that he had been drinking most of the day yesterday but he did not think he was 'that drunk that I would not remember doing something like that.'

Bruce stated he remembers James leaving the room when he was trying to talk to James and he ran upstairs to get up with James to finish talking to him about his behavior. He stated he did not remember throwing chairs out of his way or pushing Melanie off of him. He stated he did not grab James by the neck but acknowledged pulling James toward him by the front of his shirt and holding James chin with his hand so that James had to look at him. He said he remembers feeling really angry with James and resents that Melanie defends or justifies James' disrespectful behavior.

He said his mom came over to the house and he agreed to stay with her for a few days until they could figure out what they wanted to do. Bruce again became visibly tearful when discussing Melanie's broken pinky finger and recognized that it had to have happened last night when she tried to intervene

Bruce stated that LE responded to his mother's house later last night and he told them what happened.

CPI inquired re: other incident involving excessive alcohol or confrontation between James and Bruce where Bruce had been drinking and fell down in the kitchen and was throwing

dishes and tried to throw the microwave. Bruce acknowledged that that did happen about 7 months ago and no one was around but Melanie. He admitted to being intoxicated and that he was trying to make something in the microwave but he couldn't figure out how to turn it on so got frustrated and tried to pick up the microwave and throw it. When that didn't work, he threw his dishes at the wall because he got frustrated and impatient. He denied this behavior as typical and stated he does not believe he has a problem with alcohol.

CPI inquired re: the incident between him and James about 3 months ago when Bruce was reported to have snapped one of James' toys. Bruce stated that he did break one of James' toys back then because he was trying to talk to James about his behavior or attitude and James kept ignoring Bruce and playing with his toy in Bruce's face. Bruce got frustrated, took the toy from James and snapped the toy and threw it away. Bruce said he was not drinking during that incident.

Bruce is employed full time at Florida City Concrete and has been with that company for 3 years. He describes himself as a fun person, easy to get along with, with high expectations.

Bruce admits to drinking alcohol regularly as a teen and for years into adulthood. He stated he has a DUI in 2007 and was arrested from drunk and disorderly about the same time. He does not think he has a problem controlling his alcohol consumption and says he drinks for release only on the weekends. He said he may have a few beers during the week but denies ever drinking to intoxication during the week. He acknowledged that sometimes when he consumes too much alcohol, he will not remember parts of his night. He stated that he used to drink hard liquor but he said he was a mean drunk "like yelling at people and saying ugly things to people, being obnoxious and angry" so he stopped drinking hard liquor and only drinks beer now for the last 4 years. He said he doesn't think his personality changes when he drinks beer and that he feels he has control over how much he consumes; that he chooses to drink to excess when he is with his friends or brother.

CPI inquired of Bruce about when he is drinking, he will sometimes scream and yell, is impatient. Bruce stated that that is true, he is impatient more so when he is drinking than when he is not. Bruce stated that there have been times when he has thrown things like dishes or pushed things out of his way like tables or chairs, but he denied ever throwing things at his family or another person and does not see it as an issue but rather 'a way to let off steam without hurting anybody'

Bruce works at Florida City Concrete; he didn't go to work today; he has not been working much lately because it has been raining; he usually works 4/10 hour shifts, but lately been working less than 30 hours due to the rain. She denied he has had any work related issues associated with his drinking and has never missed a day of work resulting from excessive drinking. "Bruce is a hard worker."

Bruce and Melanie married since Sept, 4 years ago; met her at Karaoke night and they dated on/off 1.5 years. This is his first marriage. He said he loves Melanie and would do anything for her. He recognizes that they argue a lot and that most of their arguments are about James and how to manage James' attitude and behavior.

This is Melanie's second marriage. She was married to James' father, Michael Sandler but they got divorced because he suffers from severe depression and bipolar disorder and they could not get along.

Melanie works at Publix at Town Center for last 2 years; she just went back to work from maternity leave. He said that she sometimes gets sad because her dad just died and they were starting to rekindle their relationship. He described her as very close with her mother. He sees Melanie's mother as an antagonist to his relationship with Melanie, "always meddling and trying to create problems where there aren't any."

Bruce described Melanie as an amazing mother, nurturing and involved. He sees as her biggest fault that she doesn't teach James or hold him accountable for his behavior when he does something wrong or is deliberately hurtful or antagonistic with her or Bruce.

He said he always wanted to be a father is that he considers that job the most important in the world. He sees himself as family oriented, involved with Boy Scouts, involved in the daily activities, spends quality time with all 3 of the kids.

Bruce described his and James' relationship day in and day out as "normal" – nothing really out of the ordinary. Bruce works a lot. He only gets really frustrated when James gets mouthy and disrespectful and won't stop. Bruce will discipline James and Melanie is usually ok with the discipline and often asks him to handle it. He does not think James is a bad kid but he believes that James lacks structure and accountability.

His philosophy on discipline is that sometimes it is necessary, but it is used as the exception, not the 'go to' approach to deal with James' behavior. He stated that there is no physical discipline necessary for the other kids given their ages. He said that generally they try to talk with James, will give him a consequence or remove a privilege. She said that James becomes apologetic for his behavior

James in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, he likes to ride his bike, play video games and spend time with his MGM. He is in Boy Scouts with Bruce as the den leader.

Bruce stated that James has a smart mouth and Bruce doesn't believe in ADHD and medication and psychiatrists for most kids and as related to James, he thinks James' issues are just a lack of discipline and accountability.

Byron is 'into everything', independent, very smart, potty trained at 2 years old.

Shane has no health issues. Shane sleeps in his crib.

He doesn't know when he is planning to go home.

CPI discussed concerns related to last night and the pattern of violence associated with Bruce's drinking. CPI and father discussed how he was impulsive, due to his alcohol consumption, and was acting dangerously in ways that are likely to seriously harm James, Melanie or the younger children. CPI and father discussed described personality changes and erratic behavior when consuming alcohol and while he may be able to maintain employment and manage his drinking during the week, the nature of his consumption and erratic behavior on the weekends has found the family sending James to his MGM's home to minimize interactions between James and Bruce and on this instance, with Bruce physically assaulting James and choking him and physically assaulting Melanie. CPI explained department concerns and discussed with Bruce how his anger appeared to be out of control when he was drinking, that this appears to be an active threat currently that requires intervention to control it at this time and is possibly a more pervasive pattern of behavior but that additional information and interviews are needed.

Although Bruce does not believe he has alcohol addiction and does not require substance abuse treatment, he agrees to stay out of the home pending continued investigation and agrees to complete a substance abuse evaluation.

CPI explained that given the information collected, that a professional evaluation is required in order to determine not only treatment recommendations but also possible safety actions. Bruce to remain out of the home until a substance abuse evaluation can be completed to assess his alcohol addiction and level of treatment, if needed. He will remain with his mother Leann Beys and will not go to his home without a resource (MGM, PGM, friend Ed) there to supervise his interactions with Melanie and James.

Talked with Bruce about investigation next steps and additional interviews. Discussed some possible community or home-based services that may also benefit the family. Bruce is in agreement with Melanie in that he thinks the family should engage in counseling services to help them communicate better. CPI discussed Family Intervention Specialist (FIS) referral for a substance abuse assessment.

Scheduled FIS assessment in 2 days, 430 pm

Bruce said that when he talked to Melanie today, she told him that she needed help at home and wants him to return home. He told Melanie that he didn't want a lot of interaction with James until the family counseling starts. He stated that he understands that

any contact with Melanie or James must be supervised and that he will make no effort to move home until we reconvene after he completes his substance abuse evaluation.

**Re: Interview with PGM Leann Beys**

PGM stated that she was not present for the incident last night but she thinks things got out of hand. She stated she initially blamed Melanie and she was regretful of that because it was really her son's fault. She believes her son needs to take responsibility for his actions and come to grips with the reality that he probably needs to get some level of treatment for his drinking.

She stated that she was called to Bruce and Melanie's home by Melanie after Melanie locked Bruce out of the house. She said Melanie told her she didn't feel safe, that Bruce had hit her and was relentless and antagonizing with James and that he could not stay there last night. Leann stated that when she got there, the MGM Pam was already there. She said that they collected a few of Bruce's belongings and went to her house for the night. She was not aware at the time that LE had been contacted, but she has been made aware of that by Bruce.

Leann stated that this is not the first time Bruce has had to stay with her because of some disagreement between him and Melanie or him and James. She stated that she knows Bruce expects a lot from James and gets frustrated with James' behavior because he thinks James is disrespectful and has no structure.

Leann provided that Bruce has drunk since he was a teenager and that his drinking used to result in fights and car accidents. She stated that Bruce's father is an alcoholic and was a deadbeat and abusive to Bruce and siblings. She offered that Bruce's brother Steven and his sister both have a drinking problem and Steven has been in and out of jail, has several DUIs and experimented with drugs for a while. She reported that Bruce has always been responsible, has always maintained a job and that drinking has not really impacted his life except in his relationships and one time with his old employer. She stated that when Bruce worked for the Dept. of the Treasury, he was fired because they said he showed up for work drunk and they could smell the alcohol on his person. Apparently, he had gotten really drunk the night before and went to work still hung over so they sent him home. Leann understands that when Bruce drinks he becomes volatile and unpredictable. She initially was blaming Melanie for last night because Melanie knows what gets Bruce riled up when it comes to James and Leann thought that Melanie should have done a better job of avoiding a possible altercation by making sure James was not around. She should have dealt with James' not doing his homework or sent him to his room or bed before Bruce got home. She realizes that is not fair, but she believes Melanie bears some of the responsibility to manage what is manageable in their situation. She doesn't blame Melanie for Bruce's behavior, just that she could have helped to prevent things from escalating.

Leann described Melanie as a caring and nurturing mother who enables James and does not correct him or give him guidance. She condones his behavior even while she recognizes that it is disruptive and disrespectful to most adults.

She said that she thinks Melanie is a good influence on her son and that her son loves Melanie very much. She sees their main issues revolving around James' behavior and Bruce's drinking and believes the two are tied together. She thinks Melanie would protect her three children to the ends of the earth and she tolerates a lot but never hesitates to intervene when her kids are involved.

Leann indicated that James is a handful at times and that his behavior is often disrespectful; he interrupts conversations, tries to start arguments and has a terrible smart mouth attitude with all of the adults in his life. She is not aware of any issues at school, but said that he takes medication at school so she surmised he probably doesn't have any issues there.

Byron and Elliot are 'angels' and the "apple of Bruce's eye" – she said that Bruce always wanted to be a father and that she observes him to be an involved parent. He may not help out in the house as much as he could but that when it comes to taking care of the kids and playing with them, he's a very involved father.

PGM Leann stated that Bruce can stay with her as long as is necessary while he and Melanie work on their relationship and on Bruce's and James' not getting along.

## **Assessment of Present Danger Safety Planning**

1. After interviewing the father and paternal grandmother is/are the safety plan's actions and safety service providers still able to manage the danger threat?
2. How will you monitor this plan and what resources can you use to help you monitor the plan?
3. If one of your safety service providers can no longer participate in the plan, do you have other resources?
4. What are the least intrusive options for controlling danger?
5. Are caregivers willing to accept and support the use of a Present Danger Safety Plan?



6. To what extent are caregivers participating in the development of a Present Danger Safety Plan?

7. What other individuals can be identified to assist with the plan?

8. How can the suitability and responsibility of these individuals be confirmed?

9. Does the Present danger Safety Plan meet all the criteria to ensure child safety based on:

- Can immediately be put into place and confirmed the same day

- Is short-term yet sufficient enough to control danger until the FFA is completed
- Is sufficient to assure child is cared for and protected while FFA proceeds
- The plan suitably determines participants are verifiably trustworthy

## **Other Considerations:**

### **Release to Other Parent**

- There will be times when the least intrusive option for the protection of a child from present danger is release of the child to a non-maltreating parent who does not currently live in the child's home (is separated or divorced from maltreating parent).
- Even though this parent has legal custody rights to the child, the CPI is responsible for determining that the other parent is a responsible, dependable safety plan provider, including their alignment with the child and willingness to participate in a safety plan.
- Three steps for "Other Parent Home Assessment"
  - background check of child maltreatment history
  - interview including a walk-through of the other parent's home
  - criminal history checks of the other parent and other persons in the household

### **Rebuttal Presumption of Detriment**

- There will be times when the release of a child to another parent is not appropriate.
- When the CPI conducts the interview and assessment of the other parent, and learns that the parent is not currently in a good position to provide care for the child, the parent can state that they are not currently willing to take full custody of the child.
- They may be in a new relationship with other children in the home, they may not have available space or resources, and they may not feel they can handle the special needs of their child on a full time basis.

## Family-Made Arrangements

- There will be times when the family responds to the crises occurring at the time of an investigation and makes arrangements for the child(ren) to temporarily stay with relatives or friends.
- Such situations are referred to as a “family made arrangement” which is in place or in the midst of being arranged while the CPI is commencing the investigation and assessing present danger.
- A family made arrangement is clearly one that the family has already taken the initiative to create.
- The child welfare professional remains responsible for approving the family arrangement.
- There are published guidelines that the CPI must follow to approve the family’s arrangement. The guidelines include:
  - The family is able and willing to care for and protect the child
  - Is able to supervise the child and parent if contact with parents is agreed upon and describe in the safety plan developed
  - Agree to child abuse and criminal background checks for all household member age 12 and older, and provide information as to what record checks might reveal
  - Agree to open access to agency staff responsible for monitoring the safety plan
  - Allow the CPI access to the home in which the child will be temporarily residing and to conduct a walk-through, assessing the safety of the home environment.
- A family arrangement would **not** be used when a parent/legal guardian(s) is unable, unwilling or in denial of the need for the child’s temporary relocation. In such cases, the CPI would shelter the child.