

SUGGESTIONS FOR WORKERS  
GUIDE FOR DISCUSSION OF RISK AND SAFETY ASSESSMENT TOOL INFORMATION AT  
INITIAL REMOVAL TDM

The following suggestions are for workers to use in sharing risk and safety tool-related information at a TDM. This guide assumes the primary "audience" for the worker's remarks is the child's parent(s). Strive to communicate in the clearest and most engaging language as possible.

WORKER RESPONSIBLE TO:	SAMPLE LANGUAGE FOR WORKER:
Explain risk and safety assessment concepts, and process or tool used, to family (and other participants)	"As a worker, it's my job to make an assessment about your child's safety. I use a tool that's been developed buy experts in the child welfare field called (risk/safety assessment tool name). It assists me, as I collect information and examine issues about your situation, which I can then compare to what is known about the factors that tend to endanger children generally. We will be talking about the information I've gathered about your family and discuss why I feel there are serious safety and risk issues, using the safety/risk assessment tool. I will also share information I've gained about your family's strengths. I want you to add to all of this discussion as it unfolds. If you don't understand what I'm saying, please let me know so I can clarify."
Disclose all safety issues impacting the child	"I've identified some safety threats that are of immediate concern because they could seriously harm (child's name). They are...."
Share all risk concerns that potentially have serious effects on child(ren) (In an emergency many sites allow partial completion)	"There are some significant risk elements I've identified as I've gathered information regarding the ___ family. These suggest the possibility of future harm to the children. They are..."
Describe impact upon child	"I'm concerned about (safety/risk element) because it affects (child's name) in this way:"
Explain what must change in future	"For (child's name) to be safe and protected, I believe these changes must occur:...."
Discuss strengths of family system, particularly those able to mitigate or lower specific concerns	"Although there are certainly issues that concern me about the family, I also see a number of strengths which might serve to counterbalance some of the concerns. They are..."
Provide succinct history of child's A/N	"Our agency's prior contact with the family has been.... I have also determined that the family had previous involvement with a child welfare agency in (county/state). This information we received is..."
Give information regarding any A/N of any other child by adult with access to the child	"I have assessed all the adults residing in the home and determined that..."
Discuss relatives – support & availability/appropriateness, if placement is necessary	"I have been able to identify these extended family members; [name of them or share 'family tree' document if used in

	agency practice.] I've contacted (relative's name) and found that s/he is able to...."
Share current & previous relevant services used to resolve concerns	"(Parent's name) has an intake appointment scheduled for (date) at (time). I believe this service is a priority because..."
Discuss child's attachment and harm of remaining in the parents' care vs. emotional damage of placement	"(Child's name) is very attached to his/her mother. I have considered the effect temporary removal from her care will have on him/her and weighed it against the trauma of placement and believe that..."
Give recommendation and invite response and examination of your plan of action	"I am recommending temporary placement of (child's name) while we work to.... However, I hope everyone here will offer your thoughts about my recommendation and discuss if there is any other way (child's name) can be kept safe and protected."

Source: (Evident Change, 2021)