

## Immediate Safety Tips Sheet

The Immediate Safety Scale is used to assess immediate safety by gathering information from the family and those who know the family best. During each interview, the immediate safety scaling question should be asked in order to ascertain each person's perspective about how safe the children are for the night and the next few days during the assessment. The information gathered from each person can be used by the practitioner and/or supervisor to make decisions about whether immediate interventions are needed.

### Immediate Safety

**Immediate Safety Scaling Question:** On a scale of 0–10 where 10 is, while there might be some worries for this family, I'm confident the kids will be safe enough staying where they are while the assessment is completed and 0 is things are so bad for these children that I worry they are likely to be seriously hurt if they stay in their current situation even for tonight. Where would you rate this situation today from that 0 to that 10?



- Some Factors that Increase Danger:**
- Child Vulnerability Factors:*
- Child under 6 years
  - Physical/mental/medical/emotional/developmental impairment of child
  - Isolated or has limited contact with safe adults
- Threats to Safety:*
- Past serious harm to a child by caregiver
  - Likelihood of serious harm due to:
    - Hazardous living conditions
    - Family violence
    - Physical threat/abuse by caregiver
    - Unmet basic needs
    - Inadequate protection from harm by others
- Caregiver Engagement:*
- Caregiver unwilling/unable to engage in safety planning for the child when necessary

**Ratings:**

Name	Role	Rating

**SAFE:** The children can remain where they are while the assessment is carried through and decisions are made about the need for additional services.

**SAFE WITH AN IMMEDIATE SAFETY PLAN:** Practitioner can leave the house but need action within 48 hours, including supervisor consult to determine need for TDM referral. **Document the Immediate Safety Plan on PPS2021.**

**UNSAFE:** Practitioner doesn't leave the house until a plan is in place to achieve safety through an immediate safety plan. **Document the Immediate Safety Plan on PPS2021 or request PPC.**

- Some Factors that Increase Safety:**
- Child Capacity Factors:*
- All children 6+ years
  - Cognitive, physical and emotional capacity to participate in safety plan
  - Strong connection to safe adults who know about the worries
- Protective Capacities:*
- Past pattern of safe and adequate care
  - Cognitive, physical and emotional capacity to participate in safety interventions
  - Environment/caretaker pose no immediate threats
- Caregiver Engagement:*
- Caregiver willing to involve natural supports in safety planning, if indicated

**TDM Referral.** If all three conditions are met, a TDM referral is needed.

1. The behavior (action or inaction) of a parent(s)/primary caregiver(s)...
2. ...is threatening a child's safety, AND
3. ...DCF is considering separating the child from the parent(s)/ primary caregiver(s).