



# Red Flags for Danger






Present Danger Threats are parental behaviors, situations, and/or conditions that you may encounter or learn about that indicate something is either HAPPENING or NOT HAPPENING that is likely to cause severe harm to a child. This job aid lists things to pay attention to that might indicate Present Danger.




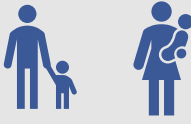

## How You May Come to Know About the Danger:

- Told by a child (disclosure)
- Observe firsthand (see or hear)
- Someone who knows the family shares concerning information



IF THERE ARE RED FLAGS FOR DANGER, NOTIFY THE CPS PROFESSIONAL OR LAW ENFORCEMENT IMMEDIATELY! Tell them what you saw or heard. If you can safely do so, stay in the home until you receive further direction.

<b>Red Flags</b> 	<b>Physical Signs in Children</b> 	<b>Behaviors in Children</b> 	<b>Behaviors in Parents</b> 	<b>Information to Share</b> 
<b>Physical Abuse</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unexplained burns, bites, bruises, broken bones, or black eyes</li> <li>• Injuries in areas not typically injured in normal play: trunk of body, butt, back, upper arms, upper legs, face and head (<i>pay special attention to any injury on children aged 0-6; any mark on head/face of any child</i>)</li> <li>• Feeding injuries on tongue or gums (infants, toddlers)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child reports injury by a parent</li> <li>• Explanation of injuries doesn't make sense or no explanation at all</li> <li>• Complains of soreness or moves uncomfortably</li> <li>• Seems frightened of parents (shrinks at approach)</li> <li>• Self-destructive</li> <li>• Withdrawn and/or aggressive (behavioral extremes)</li> <li>• Runs away from home</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offers conflicting, unconvincing, or no explanation for the child's injury</li> <li>• The child is described as evil, stupid, ugly or in very negative way</li> <li>• The child is considered a burden, nuisance or punishment</li> <li>• Demands perfection or expects child to perform or act in a way that is improbable for child's age or developmental level (e.g. babies do not cry, toddlers be perfectly still)</li> <li>• Uses harsh physical discipline</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the injury? Description.</li> <li>• Who caused the injury?</li> <li>• Who had access to the child and who will have access to the child?</li> </ul>
<b>Neglect/ Lack of Care</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of supervision or left with inappropriate caregivers</li> <li>• Extremely hungry or malnourished</li> <li>• Unattended medical or dental needs</li> <li>• Abandoned</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• States that no caretaker is at home</li> <li>• Appears extremely depressed (extremely lonely, listless, withdrawn)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abusing alcohol or other drugs or other addictive behaviors (gambling, computers), frequently intoxicated or passed out</li> <li>• Doesn't prevent other dangerous adults (e.g. violent, physically or sexually abusive, intoxicated or high) from accessing or caring for child</li> <li>• Leaves young child home alone or with inadequate or inappropriate child-care arrangements</li> </ul>	Gather information on concern: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Physical state of child:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lacks food,</li> <li>▪ Medical needs/supplies not met</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Home Environment:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Home uninhabitable: feces, infestation (rodent, insect), broken utilities/plumbing, broken windows, exposed wiring, leaking gas, fire hazards</li> <li>▪ Drugs, paraphernalia, and/or alcohol accessible</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<b>Red Flags</b> 	<b>Physical Signs in Children</b> 	<b>Behaviors in Children</b> 	<b>Behaviors in Parents</b> 	<b>Information to Share</b> 
<b>Neglect/ Lack of Care, continued</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent allows young children to wander in and out of house without supervision</li> <li>• Parent exposes children to dangerous home environment (see home environment at right)</li> <li>• Parents manufacturing and/or selling drugs out of home</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Guns, weapons, dangerous tools accessible</li> <li>▪ Dangerous substances – medicine, poisons, household cleaner accessible to young children</li> <li>• <b>Inappropriate supervision:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Description of behavior. Who? When?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Sexual Abuse</b>	<p><i>NOTE: Sexual abuse may be non-touching: pornography, exposure OR touching: fondling, molesting, oral sex, intercourse</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Torn, stained or bloody underclothing</li> <li>• Pain, swelling or itching in genital area</li> <li>• Difficulty walking or sitting</li> <li>• Bruises/bleeding in genital area</li> <li>• Becomes pregnant or contracts a venereal disease</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports sexual abuse by parent</li> <li>• Demonstrates sophisticated or unusual sexual knowledge or inappropriate sex play for age</li> <li>• Sex trafficking</li> <li>• Suicide attempts, runs away (adolescents)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports sexually abusive behaviors toward child(ren)</li> <li>• Uses child in solicitation, trafficking, transport, or pornography (this may be by the child's parent or another adult)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Description of physical signs and/or behaviors in child and/or parents.</li> <li>• What is the person's access to child now and next couple of days?</li> </ul>
<b>Emotional Abuse</b>	<p><i>NOTE: Emotional abuse may be name-calling, insults, put-downs, or it may be terrorization, isolation, humiliation, rejection, corruption, ignoring</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shares extreme worries/fear</li> <li>• Withdrawn, crying, cowering or aversion to family members, bowel or urinary control issues</li> <li>• Displays behaviors indicating extreme emotional trauma: depression, withdrawal, aggression</li> <li>• Suicide attempts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overtly rejects the child</li> <li>• Child is perceived as having the same characteristics as someone the parent hates or an undesirable extension of self</li> <li>• Parent is jealous of child and believes child is threat to parent's relationships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Description of behaviors in child and/or parents.</li> <li>• Who is involved?</li> </ul>
<b>Violence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See injuries under physical abuse</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child hurt during the incidence of domestic violence</li> <li>• Child getting in middle to protect others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult violence and child maltreatment occurring together</li> <li>• Threats of violence in home; including threats of death or use of weapons</li> <li>• Adult injury impacts ability to care for or protect child</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does this look like when it is happening?</li> <li>• Where were the children?</li> <li>• What do we know about the adults?</li> <li>• What triggers the violence?</li> </ul>