



PRESENT DANGER AND PROTECTIVE PLANNING LEARNING COLLABORATIVE

JUNE 2022: APPLICATION OF THE PRESENT DANGER CRITERIA

Present Danger Threats Criteria

Each of the Present Danger Threats must be supported by using the definition of present danger from the Safety Intervention Standards to support a critical thinking process. By taking the steps to name the **Clearly Observable Family Condition** and justifying how it is **Significant, Immediate, and Likely to Result in Severe Harm** (or not), Child Welfare Professionals can make the sort between which are conditions that need intervention, and which do not.

Clearly Observable Family Condition

- Naming the danger. It's an explanation of the unique behavior, condition, situation, or circumstance that is the basis for concern.
- It can be described and justified as occurring in the family based on sufficient information.

Tip

I'm concerned about safety because...

- Briefly describing the observable family condition in the household begins to create a mental image. In the information being collected, what stands out as the safety concern is your observable.

Significant

- Qualifies why the observable condition is a serious issue from a child welfare perspective.
- Includes professional knowledge about the dynamics of maltreatment and danger to think about how, why, and what about THIS observable is concerning.

Tip

Why does this observable stand out in this household? What is it about the adults, children, and the dynamics that got you thinking about the Present Danger Threat?

- All the Present Danger Threats are significant. This criterion describes the connection between the information and the Present Danger Threat(s) you are connecting.



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REFLECTION ON CONTENT

How does critically thinking about/using Observable and Significant promote more confidence in safety decision making and improve conversations with families, colleagues, and community supports/stakeholders?

ACTION ITEM

What is your plan to begin making the definition of Present Danger functional when determining if present danger exists? Or, if already utilizing criteria, what is your plan for consistently naming the danger in a way that is following the best practice guidelines of being discrete and unique to the family condition, behavior, situation, or circumstance?