

STRUCTURED DECISION MAKING (SDM) © SAFETY THREATS

1. Caregiver caused serious physical harm to the child or made a plausible threat to cause serious physical harm in the current investigation, as indicated by:
 - Serious injury or abuse to the child other than accidental.
 - Caregiver fears he/she will maltreat the child.
 - Threat to cause harm or retaliate against the child.
 - Domestic violence likely to injure child.
 - Excessive discipline or physical force.
 - Drug-/alcohol-exposed infant.
2. Child sexual abuse is suspected, AND circumstances suggest that the child's safety may be of immediate concern.
3. Caregiver does not meet the child's immediate needs for supervision, food, clothing, and/or medical or mental health care.
4. The physical living conditions are hazardous and immediately threatening to the health and/or safety of the child.
5. Caregiver describes or speaks to the child in predominantly negative terms or acts toward or in the presence of the child in negative ways AND these actions result in severe psychological/emotional harm, leading to the child being a danger to self or others.
6. Caregiver is unable OR unwilling to protect the child from serious harm or threatened harm by others. This may include physical abuse, sexual abuse, or neglect.
7. Caregiver's explanation for the injury to the child is questionable or inconsistent with the type of injury, AND the nature of the injury suggests that the child's safety may be of immediate concern.
8. The family refuses access to the child, or there is reason to believe that the family is about to flee.
9. Current circumstances, combined with information that the caregiver has or may have previously maltreated a child in his/her care, suggest that the child's safety may be of immediate concern based on the severity of the previous maltreatment or the caregiver's response to the previous incident.
10. Other (specify): _____

For more information, please refer to the Children's Research Center [SDM Policy & Procedures Manual](#) (password: training).

Attachment: Completing the Structured Decision Making (SDM) Safety Plan [0070-548.25](#)