

Student Name:

Date Completed:

Safety Terms and Concepts

The main goal of child welfare is to ensure the safety of Alabama's children. For this reason, safety focused practice permeates all of our program areas. We use evidence-based practice in our assessment and practice with children and families to ensure this goal is met.

1. Review the important safety terms and concepts listed below:

- **Safe Child:** Vulnerable children are safe when there are no present danger or impending danger threats, or caretaker protective capacities are sufficient to control existing danger.
- **Unsafe Child:** Children are unsafe when they are vulnerable and there are threats of danger within the family and the caretakers have insufficient protective capacities to manage or control the threats, making outside intervention necessary.
- **Vulnerable Child:** Child vulnerability refers to a child's capacity for self-protection. This definition helps to challenge the tendency of associating vulnerability primarily with age.
- **Caretaker Protective Capacity:** Personal and parenting behavioral, cognitive, and emotional characteristics that are specifically and directly associated with being protective of one's children.
- **Present Danger:** Present danger exists as an immediate, significant, and clearly observable family condition, child condition, individual behavior, action, or family circumstance which is in the process of occurring and which obviously endangers or threatens to endanger a child and requires immediate action to protect.
- **Present Danger Plan:** An instantaneous (same day), short-term, sufficient strategy that provides a child responsible adult supervision and care for suspending family behaviors or conditions long enough for the completion of information collection in order to make a determination about impending danger.
- **Impending Danger:** A state of danger in which negative family conditions/or diminished caretaker protective capacities pose a threat that may not be currently active but can be anticipated to have severe effects on a child any time in the near future.
- **Safety Plan for Impending Danger:** A written document arranged between the caretakers and the department that establishes what (impending) must be controlled, how it will be managed, who is expected to implement it, and when monitoring and oversight will occur. A safety plan should be implemented as long as a safety assessment concludes that impending danger exists.
- **Safety Providers:** professionals, non-professionals, or family members who provide formal and informal services or activities that control present or impending danger as a part of the safety plan.
- **Safety Plan Criteria:**
 - must control or manage the impending danger
 - must have an immediate effect
 - must be immediately accessible and available

- must contain safety actions only
- no promissory commitments
- Safety Threshold: crossing over from being something that is risk related to something that is a safety concern.
- Safety Threshold Criteria:
 - present danger: immediate, significant, and clearly observable
 - impending danger: severity, vulnerable child, out of control, imminence and observable
- Risk: the likelihood of future maltreatment.

2. Provide an example of the following terms:

- Safe Child:
- Unsafe Child:
- Vulnerable Child:
- Caretaker Protective Capacity:
- Present Danger:
- Impending Danger:
- Safety Providers:
 - List three Safety Plan Providers:

I discussed the following with my supervisor regarding Safety Terms & Concepts: