

CG=Caregiver  
CH=Child



# PENNSYLVANIA SAFETY THREATS



DV=Domestic Violence  
AP=Alleged Perpetrator

SAFETY THREAT	EXPLANTATION	CRITERIA
1.CG intended to cause serious physical harm to CH	Acts were intentional; Objective was to cause pain & suffering; Nothing/no one in the household could stop the behavior; No remorse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CG wants to inflict pain &amp;/or injury to teach CH a lesson; discipline is not the primary reason</li> <li>- The nature of the incident/use of an instrument can be reasonably assumed to heighten the level of pain/injury (e.g. cigarette burns)</li> <li>- CG does not acknowledge and guilt or wrongdoing &amp; they intended to hurt CH</li> <li>- CG feels justified, expresses CH deserved it &amp; they intended to hurt CH</li> <li>- CG can reasonably be assumed to have had some awareness of what the result would be prior to the incident</li> </ul>
2.CG is threatening to severely harm CH/is fearful that he/she will maltreat child	Threat to severely harm/expressed anxiety is sufficient to conclude that CG might react toward CH at any time & it could be in the near future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CG states he/she will maltreat</li> <li>- CG's threats are plausible, believable, may be related to specific provocative CH behavior</li> <li>- CG talks about being worried about/fearful of/preoccupied with maltreating CH</li> <li>- CG is distressed/"at the end of his/her rope" &amp; is asking for some relief in either specific (e.g. "take the child or general (e.g. "please help me before something awful happens") terms</li> </ul>
3.CG cannot/will not explain injuries to CH	CG is unable/unwilling to explain maltreating conditions/injuries consistent with facts; Unexplained serious injury/condition is a present danger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CG acknowledges the presence of injuries/conditions, but pleads ignorant as to how they occurred</li> <li>- CG expresses concern for CH's condition, but is unable to explain it</li> <li>- CG accepts the presence of injuries/conditions, but does not explain them/seem concerned</li> <li>- History &amp; circumstantial information are inconsistent with CGs explanation of the injuries/conditions</li> <li>- CG's verbal expressions do not match their emotional responses &amp; there is not a believable explanation</li> <li>- Facts related to the incident/injury/condition contradict CG's explanations</li> </ul>
4.Sexual abuse suspected/ occurred; Circumstances suggest abuse is likely to occur	Sexual abuse always presents serious harm to CH; Concern relates to whether/not sexual abuse is imminent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CG does not believe CH's disclosure of sexual abuse even when there is a preponderance of evidence &amp; this affects CHs safety</li> <li>- Sexual abuse has occurred in which family circumstances (e.g. opportunity) may be consistent with sexual abuse</li> <li>- CG denies the abuse/blames CH/offers no explanation/explanation is unbelievable</li> <li>- Sexual abuse is suspected &amp; circumstances suggest continued abuse is likely to occur</li> <li>- AP has access to CH</li> <li>- CG has forced/encouraged CH to engage in sexual activities</li> <li>- Non-offending CG is unable/unwilling to prevent AP from having access to CH</li> <li>- CG cannot control his/her sexual impulses</li> </ul>
5.CG is violent/acting dangerously	Includes both behaviors & emotions which may be immediately observable/frequently occurring/occur in future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Violence includes hitting/beating/physically assaulting/verbally assaulting CH/other family member</li> <li>- Violence includes acting dangerously toward CH/others, including throwing things, taunting weapons, driving recklessly, aggressively intimidating, &amp; terrorizing</li> <li>- Presence of DV where violence involves physical/verbal assault on adult CG in presence of CH; CH's exposure to DV causes fear for self/others</li> <li>- DV is occurring &amp; CH is assaulted/attempting to intervene/inadvertently harmed even though not the actual target of the violence</li> <li>- CG is impulsive, exhibiting physical aggression, having temper outburst/unanticipated &amp; harmful physical reactions (e.g. throwing things)</li> <li>- CG's behavior outside the home (e.g. drugs, violence, aggressiveness, hostility) creates an environment within the home with threatens CH safety (e.g. drug parties, drive-by shootings)</li> </ul>
6.CG cannot/will not control their behavior	Lack of CG self-control which jeopardizes safety of CH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CG is acting bizarrely/delusional/experiencing hallucinations</li> <li>- CG is under the influence of some substance/is chemically dependent &amp; unable to control effects of the addiction</li> <li>- CG is seriously depressed/unable to control emotions/behaviors &amp; is functionally unable to meet CH's basic needs</li> <li>- CG makes impulsive decisions &amp; plans which leave CH in unsafe situations (e.g. unsupervised, supervised by an unreliable CG)</li> <li>- CG is emotionally immobilized, chronically/situationally (e.g. paralyzed by fear as a result of DV)</li> <li>- CG has addictive patterns/behaviors (e.g. addiction to substances/gambling/computers) that are uncontrolled &amp; leave CH in unsafe situations (e.g. failure to supervise/provide other basic care)</li> </ul>
7. CG reacts dangerously to CH's serious emotional symptoms/lack of behavior control/self-destructive behavior	CG can be so provoked by CH's behavior that he/she reacts dangerously; CH's behavior so out-of-control that CG cannot safely manage it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CH is confrontational/insulting/challenging...</li> <li>- CH is highly aggressive &amp; acting out repeatedly...</li> <li>- CH threatens to run away...</li> <li>- CH abuses substances...</li> <li>...so that CG's lose patience/impulsively strike out at CH/isolate CH/totally avoid CH in an extreme manner</li> </ul>

8.CG cannot/will not meet CH's special/physical/emotional/medical/behavioral/needs	The needs of CH are acute & require immediate & constant attention by CG; Attention & care specific & related to severe results when left unattended; Imminence is obvious; Severe effects would be immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CG does not seek treatment for CH's immediate &amp; dangerous medical conditions</li> <li>- CG's failure to give prescribed medication endangers CH's life/causes his/her condition to worsen</li> <li>- CH complains to extreme pain &amp; CG does not seek medical/dental attention</li> <li>- CH is suicidal/self-mutilating/exhibiting other harmful behaviors (e.g. substance abuse), but CG does not take protective action</li> <li>- CG's expectations of CH are totally unrealistic in view of CH's condition</li> <li>- CH is a physical danger to others</li> <li>- CH's basic needs exceed normal expectations because of unusual conditions (e.g. disabled CH) &amp; family unable to adequately address</li> </ul>
9.CG is not performing duties & responsibilities that assure CH safety	Refers only to adults; Duties & responsibilities are at critical level that if not addressed represent specific danger/threat to vulnerable CH; Lack of meeting these basic duties could result in CH being seriously injured/kidnapped/seriously ill/dying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CG is unable to perform basic care duties/fulfill essential protective duties</li> <li>- CG is incapacitated/incarcerated/hospitalized/on vacation/absent from home/current whereabouts unknown</li> <li>- CG does not attend to CH; the need for care goes unnoticed/unmet (e.g. CH wanders outdoors alone, plays with dangerous objects, plays on unprotected window ledge, exposed to other serious hazards)</li> <li>- CG leaves CH alone, not considering length of time alone &amp; CH's age/development</li> <li>- CG leaves CH with other inadequate/inappropriate CG's</li> <li>- CG is unable to care for CH due to trauma or recent assault, repeated incidents of violence, including DV</li> <li>- CG has abandoned CH, including situations in which he/she flees for his/her own safety due to DV</li> </ul>
10.CG's lack of parenting knowledge/skills/motivation presents immediate threat of serious harm to CH	Refers to basic parenting that directly affects CH's safety; Extreme inability/unwillingness to meet basic needs creates CH safety concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CG does not know what basic care is/how to provide it (e.g. how to feed/diaper, how to protect/supervise according to CH's age)</li> <li>- CG's expectations of CH are unrealistic &amp; far exceed CH's capacity thereby placing CH in unsafe situations</li> <li>- CG avoids parenting &amp; basic care responsibilities</li> <li>- CG does not know/apply basic safety measures (e.g. keeping medications/sharp objects/household cleaners out of reach of small CH)</li> <li>- CG places his/her own needs above CH's needs thereby affecting CH's safety</li> <li>- Living conditions severely endanger CH</li> </ul>
11.Doesn't have/use resources necessary to meet CH's immediate basic needs & presents immediate threat of serious harm to CH	Lack of resources so acute that their absence could have an imminent severe effect on CH; Could cause serious injury/serious medical problems/serious physical health problems/starvation/serious malnutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Family has no food/clothing/shelter</li> <li>- Family finances are insufficient to support needs (e.g. medical care) that, if unmet, could result in a threat to CH safety</li> <li>- Family is routinely using their resources for things (e.g. drugs, electronics, vacations) other than their basic care &amp; support thereby leaving them without their basic needs being adequately met</li> </ul>
12.CG perceives CH in extremely negative terms	Perception so negative that, when present, creates CH safety concerns; These types of perceptions must be present & inaccurate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CH is perceived to be the devil/demon-possessed/evil</li> <li>- CG's perception of CH is extremely negative (e.g. deformed, ugly, deficient, embarrassing)</li> <li>- CG perceives CH having taken on same identity as someone CG hates/is fearful of/is hostile toward &amp; CG transfers feelings/perceptions to CH</li> <li>- CH is considered by CG to be punishing/torturing them</li> <li>- CG is jealous of CH &amp; believes CH is a detriment/threat to CG's relationship &amp; stands in the way of his/her best interests</li> <li>- CG sees CH as an undesirable extension of self who needs purging/punishing</li> <li>- CG sees CH as responsible &amp; accountable for CG's problems, blames CH, behaves/acts out toward CH as a result based on a lack of reality/appropriateness because of their own needs/issues</li> </ul>
13.CG overtly rejects CYS intervention/refuses access to CH; Indication that CG's will flee	Rejection far more than failure to cooperate/open anger & hostility about CYS involvement/general resistance & reluctance; Indications that family will change residences/leave jurisdiction/refuse access to CH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CG refuses to allow CYS in the home/access to certain parts of the home</li> <li>- CG refuses to allow CYS to see/speak with CH; does not inform CYS where CH is located</li> <li>- Family is highly transient/has little attachments (e.g. job, home, property, extended family)/there are other circumstances prompting flight (e.g. warrants, false identities uncovered, criminal convictions, financial debt) &amp; behaviors suggest flight for purpose of avoiding CYS involvement</li> <li>- CG has demonstrated behaviors of avoidance/flight</li> <li>- CG's overt behavior prevents CW from assessing CH's living condition (e.g. refusing to talk to CYS, avoiding contact with CYS, making excuses for not participating, missing appointments, other evasive/manipulative/suspicious behavior)</li> </ul>
14.CH is fearful of home situation, including people in home	CH's fear obvious, extreme, & related to some perceived danger CH feels/experiences; Cause of CH's fear is active, currently occurring, & immediate concern of CH; Imminence applies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CH demonstrates extreme emotional/physical responses (e.g. crying, inability to focus, nervousness, withdrawal, fear of going home) indicating fear of the living situation/people within the home</li> <li>- CH expresses fear &amp; describes people &amp; circumstances which are an obvious/serious threat</li> <li>- CH recounts experiences which form the basis for fear</li> <li>- CH's fearful response escalates at the mention of home/people/circumstances associated with reported incidents</li> <li>- CH describes personal threats which seem clear, serious, &amp; believable</li> </ul>