



June 10, 2025

Identifying Safe Children for In-Home Oversight

This Practice Guide is used to assist you when deciding if a family is in need of In-Home case management.

- This is not an all-inclusive list – other cases will be appropriate for In-Home case management. The cases on this list have been identified as being at higher risk of maltreatment without continued involvement, although the children in the home are assessed as “Safe.”
- The investigating DCS Specialist is to submit immediate referrals for identified services such as Arizona Families F.I.R.S.T., random urinalysis testing, childcare, etc, prior to sending the notification for In Home case management.
- The Family Functioning Assessment must be complete with an impending danger decision of “safe” before a decision for In-Home case management can be made.

Types of Assessments involving higher risks of maltreatment:

- There has been an impact on family functioning as a result of a major life stressor (e.g. death in the family, loss of job, divorce, etc.).
- Unmanaged mental health that is impacting parenting.
- Domestic violence.
- Substance use that is impacting parenting.
- Child(ren) under the age of 5 with allegations of physical abuse and diminished parenting skills.
- Child(ren) has been moved to the care of a parent who has not consistently practiced care giving responsibilities for the child(ren).
- Parent is a teen or young adult, up to the age of 21.
- Isolated family – socially and/or geographically.
- Injuries to children under the age of 1 with unknown cause, or are unwitnessed.
- Injuries to children where medical staff cannot rule out non-accidental causes.
- If there are prior reports of similar allegations, and an established pattern of abuse/neglect and one of the following has also been assessed within the family's home:
 - ▶ Lack of supervision/inappropriate supervision (e.g. leaving child(ren) with inappropriate caregivers)
 - ▶ Child(ren) has high needs (Behavioral Health, DDD, medical problems, etc.) that are not being consistently addressed.
 - ▶ Severely dirty home.
 - ▶ Lack of tangible resources.
- If there is a Substance Exposed Newborn (SEN) assessed as safe and one of the following has also been assessed within the family's home:
 - ▶ Second SEN report regardless of timeline between reports.
 - ▶ Caregiver is a new parent, or has not parented.
 - ▶ High needs infant.
 - ▶ Postpartum depression and/or mental health concerns.