

**NORTH CAROLINA  
SAFETY ASSESSMENT**

Case Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Case #: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

County Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Report Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Worker Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Children: \_\_\_\_\_

Caretakers: \_\_\_\_\_

**Part A. FACTORS INFLUENCING CHILD VULNERABILITY**

These are conditions resulting in child's inability to protect self. Mark all that apply to any child.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child is age 0-5.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Child has diminished mental capacity.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child has diagnosed or suspected medical or mental condition, including medically fragile. | <input type="checkbox"/> Child has diminished physical capacity. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child has limited or no readily accessible support network.                                | <input type="checkbox"/> None apply                              |

**The vulnerability of each child needs to be considered throughout the assessment.** Younger children and children with diminished mental or physical capacity or repeated victimization should be considered more vulnerable. Complete this assessment based on the most vulnerable child.

**Part B. CURRENT INDICATORS OF SAFETY**

The following list is comprised of safety indicators, defined as behaviors or conditions that describe a child being in imminent danger of serious harm. Assess the above household for each of the safety indicators. Mark "yes" for any and all safety indicators present in the family's current situation and mark "no" for any and all of the safety indicators absent from the family's current situation based on the information at the time. Mark all that apply.

1. Yes No Caretaker caused and/or allowed serious physical harm to the child or made a plausible threat to cause serious physical harm in the current assessment as indicated by:

- Serious injury or abuse to the child other than accidental.
- Caretaker fears he/she will maltreat the child.
- Threat to cause harm or retaliate against the child.
- Substantial or unreasonable use of physical force.
- Drug-exposed infant/child
- Caretaker committed act that placed child at risk of significant/serious pain that could result in impairment or loss of bodily function.
- Caretaker intended to hurt child and does not show remorse.
- Death of a child.

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Yes No Child sexual abuse is suspected to have been committed by:

- Parent;
- Other caretaker; OR
- Unknown person AND the parent or other caretaker cannot be ruled out, AND circumstances suggest that the child's safety may be of immediate concern.

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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3.    Yes    No    Caretaker is aware of the potential harm AND unwilling, OR unable to protect the child from serious harm or threatened harm by others. This may include physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, or neglect. (Domestic violence behaviors should be captured under Indicator 10.)

- Caretaker fails to protect child from serious harm or threatened harm by other family members, other household members, or other having regular access to the child.
- An individual(s) with recent, chronic, or severe violent behavior resides in the home or caretaker allows access to the child.

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4.    Yes    No    Caretaker's explanation or lack of 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.

- Medical exam shows injury is the result of abuse; caretaker offers no explanation, denies, or attributes to an accident.
- Caretaker's explanation for the observed injury is inconsistent with the type of injury.
- Caretaker's description of the cause of the injury minimizes the extent of harm to the child.
- Caretaker's and/or collateral contacts' explanation for the injury has significant discrepancies or contradictions.

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5.    Yes    No    Caretaker fails to provide supervision to protect child from potentially serious harm.

- Caretaker present but child wanders outdoors alone, plays with dangerous objects, or on window ledges, etc.
- Caretaker leaves child alone (period of time varies with age and developmental status).
- Caretaker makes inadequate/inappropriate child care arrangements or plans very poorly for child's care.
- Caretaker's whereabouts are unknown.

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6.    Yes    No    Caretaker does not meet the child's immediate needs for food or clothing.

- No food provided or available to the child, or child is starved/deprived of food/drink for long periods.
- Child appears malnourished.
- Child is without minimally warm clothing in cold months.

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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7.    Yes    No    Caretaker does not meet the child's immediate needs for medical or critical mental health care (suicidal/homicidal).
- Caretaker does not seek treatment for child's immediate medical condition(s) or does not follow prescribed treatments.
  - Child has exceptional needs that parents cannot/will not meet.
  - Child is suicidal and parents will not take protective action.
  - Child is homicidal and parents will not take protective action.
  - Child shows effects of maltreatment (i.e. emotional symptoms, lack of behavior control, or physical symptoms).

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8.    Yes    No    Physical living conditions are hazardous and immediately threatening to the health and/or safety of the child.
- Leaking gas from a stove or heating unit.
  - Dangerous substances or objects stored in unlocked lower shelves or cabinets, under sink, or in the open.
  - Lack of water, heat, plumbing, or electricity and provisions are inappropriate (i.e. using stove as heat source).
  - Open/broken/ missing windows.
  - Exposed electrical wires.
  - Excessive garbage or rotted or spoiled food that threatens health.
  - Serious illness/significant injury due to current living conditions (i.e. lead poisoning, rat bites, etc.)
  - Evidence of human or animal waste throughout the living quarters.
  - Guns and other weapons are not stored in a locked or inaccessible area.
  - Dangerous drugs are being manufactured on premises with child present.

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9.    Yes    No    Caretaker's current substance abuse seriously impacts his/her ability to supervise, protect, or care for the child.
- The caretaker is currently high on drugs or alcohol.
  - There is a current, ongoing pattern of substance abuse that leads directly to neglect and/or abuse of the child.

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10.   Yes    No    Domestic violence exists in the household and poses an imminent danger of serious physical harm and/or emotional harm to the child.
- Child was in immediate danger of serious physical harm by being in close proximity to an incident(s) of assaultive behavior/domestic violence between adults in the household. This includes the child(ren) being in visual or hearing proximity of domestic violence events in the home.

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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11.   Yes   No   Caretaker persistently describes the child in predominantly negative terms or acts toward the child in negative ways, AND these actions make the child a danger to self or others, suicidal, act out aggressively, or severely withdrawn.

- Caretaker repeatedly describes the child in a demeaning or degrading manner (i.e. as evil, possessed, stupid, ugly, etc.)
- Caretaker repeatedly curses and/or puts child down.
- Caretaker repeatedly scapegoats a particular child in the family.
- Caretaker blames child for a particular incident, or distorts child's behavior as a reason to abuse.
- Caretaker repeatedly expects unrealistic behavior(s) for the child's age/developmental stage.
- Caretaker views child as responsible for the caretaker's or family's problems.

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12.   Yes   No   Caretaker's physical ability, emotional stability, developmental status, or cognitive deficiency seriously impairs his/her current ability to supervise, protect, or care for the child.

- Caretaker has a physical condition that seriously impairs his/her ability to parent the child.
- Emotional instability, acting out, or distorted perception is seriously impeding ability to parent.
- Depression or feelings of hopelessness/helplessness immobilize the caretaker, who then fails to maintain child/home.
- Caretaker is overwhelmed by child's dysfunctional emotional, physical, or mental characteristics.
- Caretaker's cognitive delays result in lack of knowledge about basic parenting skills.

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

13.   Yes   No   Family currently refuses access to or hides the child and/or seeks to hinder an assessment.

- Family currently refuses access to the child and cannot or will not provide the child's location.
- Family removed the child from a hospital against medical advice.
- Family has previously fled in response to a CPS assessment.
- Family has a history of keeping the child away from peers, school, or other outsiders for extended periods to avoid CPS assessment.
- Family is otherwise attempting to block or avoid CPS assessment.

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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14. Yes No Current circumstances, combined with information that the caretaker 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 caretaker's response to the previous incident.

- Prior death of a child.
- Prior serious harm to any child.
- Termination of parental rights.
- Prior removal of any child.
- Prior CPS substantiation or services needed finding.
- Prior threat of serious harm to child.
- Caretaker failed to benefit from previous professional help.

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

15. Yes No Child is fearful of caretaker, other family members, or people living in or having access to the home.

- Child cries, cowers, cringes, trembles, or exhibits or verbalizes fear in relation to certain individuals.
- Child exhibits anxiety, nightmares, or insomnia related to a situation associated with a person in the home.
- Child fears unreasonable retribution/retaliation from caretaker, others in the home, or others having access to the child.

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

16. Yes No Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Initials \_\_\_\_\_

Initials \_\_\_\_\_

**THE ALLEGATIONS ALONE DO NOT CONSTITUTE THE NEED FOR A SAFETY INTERVENTION/SAFETY AGREEMENT.**

If any Indicators of Immediate Safety are marked "Yes", skip the bottom of this page and continue on the next page.

If all Indicators of Immediate Safety 1 through 16 are "No",

check this box  Safe and complete the part below (the remaining pages do not need to be completed).

SIGNATURES			
Child's Parent or Legal Guardian:	Date Signed:	Child's Parent or Legal Guardian:	Date Signed:
Child's Parent or Legal Guardian:	Date Signed:	CPS Social Worker:	Date Signed:
Other Party:	Date Signed:	CPS Supervisor:	Date Signed:

Who Can I Contact?		
CPS Social Worker's Name:	Phone Number:	Email Address:
CPS Supervisor's Name:	Phone Number:	Email Address:

**PART C: SAFETY INTERVENTIONS**

Directions: For each factor identified in Section B, consider the resources available in the family and the community that might help to keep the child(ren) safe. Check each response necessary to protect the child(ren) and explain below.

**Family Safety Interventions (Safe with a plan)**

- 1. Monitoring and/or use of direct services by county child welfare agency.
  - 2. Use family, neighbors, or other individuals in the community in the development and implementation of a safety agreement.
  - 3. Use community agencies or services.
  - 4. The alleged perpetrator will leave or has left the home--either voluntarily or in response to legal action.
  - 5. A protective caretaker will move or has moved to a safe environment with the child(ren) and there are no restrictions on protective caretaker's access to the child(ren).
  - 6. Identification of a Temporary Safety Provider by the parent with the social worker monitoring.
    - A Temporary Safety Provider will move into the family home.
    - The child(ren) will reside in the home of a Temporary Safety Provider.
- Explain why responses 1-5 were insufficient.
- 
- 

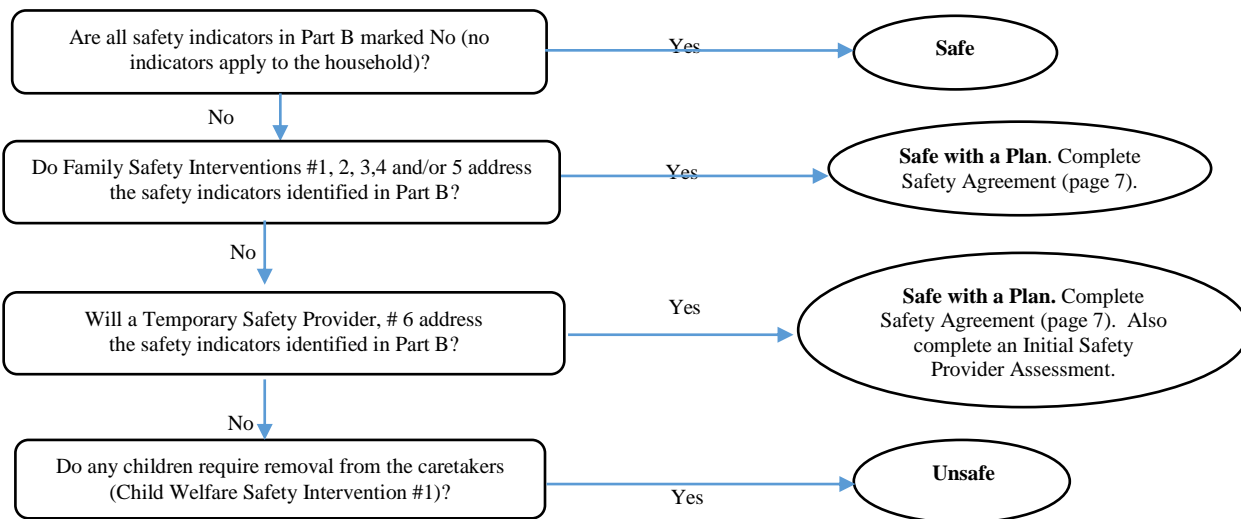
**Child Welfare Safety Intervention (Unsafe)**

- 1. Removal of any child in the household; interventions 1-6 do not adequately ensure the child(ren)'s safety. Explain why a Family Safety Intervention (1-6) could not be used to protect the child.
- 
- 

**PART D: SAFETY DECISION**

Directions: Identify the safety decision by checking the appropriate line below. Check one line only. This decision should be based on the assessment of all safety indicators, child vulnerability, and any other information known about this case.

- A. Safe:** \_\_\_\_\_ There are no children likely to be in immediate danger of serious harm. (Indicators of Immediate Safety all marked No, Marked Safe on Page 5).
- B. Safe with a plan:** \_\_\_\_\_ One or more safety indicators are present; Safety Agreement required.
- Family Safety Interventions 1, 2, and/or 3 will address safety indicators.
  - The alleged perpetrator left the home.
  - A protective caretaker moved to a safe environment with the child(ren).
  - Use of a Temporary Safety Provider.
- C. Unsafe:** \_\_\_\_\_  One or more children were removed in response to legal action.



# TEMPORARY PARENTAL SAFETY AGREEMENT

## PART E: SAFETY AGREEMENT

**Purpose:** A safety agreement is used only when there is a specific threat to a child in the immediate or foreseeable future. The plan must be created with the family and must be written in practical, action-oriented language.

**Instructions:** The social worker and the family complete this document. Describe what tasks will be done to assure safety, by whom, how often, and duration. The tasks identified should include actions that need to be taken to keep child(ren) safe now, address risks to safety, and/or are necessary for the child(ren) to be able to return to the home (if the child(ren) leaves the home). Indicate how the social worker will be monitoring the plan. The social worker then reviews it with each parent, guardian, custodian and caretaker who will sign the agreement. The social worker ensures that the parent or caretaker has read and/or understands the document and has initialed each applicable field. The social worker will work with the family to arrange for a review of the plan. The social worker then provides a copy to each person who signs the form.

<b>Family Name:</b>			<b>Date:</b>	
<b>What is the specific situation or action that causes the child to be unsafe? What is the safety threat?</b>	<b>What actions need to be taken right now to keep the child safe?</b>	<b>Who is responsible for ensuring that these actions are taken?</b>	<b>Timeframe for completing the actions</b>	<b>Responsible Party's initials</b>

**PART F: STATEMENTS OF UNDERSTANDING AND AGREEMENT**

<b>PARENT OR CARETAKER</b>	<b>INITIALS</b>
1. I (the parent or caretaker) agree that I participated in the development of and reviewed this safety agreement. I agree to work with the providers and services as described above.	
2. My participation in this agreement is not an admission of child abuse or neglect on my part and cannot be used as an admission of child abuse or neglect.	
3. I understand that I have the right to revoke and/or have the Temporary Parental Safety Agreement reviewed <u>at any time</u> . (See bottom of page.) I also understand that if a Safety Agreement cannot be agreed upon or if the actions in the Safety Agreement are not followed, the county child welfare agency may have the authority to request that the court make a determination on how the child(ren)'s safety will be assured.	
4. I (the parent or caretaker) confirm that this agreement does not conflict with any existing court order, or if I am affected by a court order, all parties affected by the court order agree to this safety agreement on a temporary basis.	
5. I (the parent or caretaker) understand that CPS may refer for further services, may restrict access to my child(ren), or may ask the court to order that I complete services or place the child in foster care.	
6. If a Temporary Safety Provider is utilized, I understand that CPS will share any information with the Temporary Safety Provider for the safety and welfare of my child while the child lives in that home or the Temporary Safety Provider resides in the family home.	
7. This safety agreement will cease to be in effect when I am notified by my social worker or CPS is no longer providing services to my family.	

**TEMPORARY SAFETY PROVIDER**

1. If the parent is unable to provide a safe environment for the child and the court names the county child welfare agency as the child's legal custodian, I will be given consideration as a placement for the child if I agree and continued placement is determined to be safe.	
2. If I (the person providing care as Temporary Safety Provider) am unable to carry out this plan successfully, or if the child in my care is considered to be in an unsafe situation, the child will be moved to a different placement and further CPS involvement may be necessary, including court intervention.	

**SIGNATURES**

Child's Parent or Legal Guardian:	Date Signed:	Child's Parent or Legal Guardian:	Date Signed:
Child's Parent or Legal Guardian:	Date Signed:	CPS Social Worker:	Date Signed:
Other Party:	Date Signed:	CPS Supervisor:	Date Signed:
Temporary Safety Provider:	Date Signed:	Temporary Safety Provider:	Date Signed:

Who Can I Contact? (Who can I contact if circumstances change, if I have questions about CPS involvement, or if I have questions about this safety agreement? Who do I contact to revoke any or all parts of this agreement?)

CPS Social Worker's Name:	Phone Number:	Email Address:
CPS Supervisor's Name:	Phone Number:	Email Address:

**REVOCAATION: I revoke my consent to the Temporary Parental Safety Agreement.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_