


STATE OF WISCONSIN
Department of Children and Families
Division of Safety and Permanence

DSP Memo Series 2008 - 07
November 3, 2008
Re: Assessing Safety in Foster
and Relative Placements

To: Area Administrators/ Human Services Area Coordinators
Bureau Directors
Child Placing Agency Directors
Child Welfare Agency Directors
County Departments of Community Programs Directors
County Departments of Developmental Disabilities
Services Directors
County Departments of Human Services Directors
County Departments of Social Services Directors
Indian Child Welfare Directors
Licensing Chiefs/Section Chiefs
Tribal Chairpersons/Human Services Facilitators

From: Cyrus Behroozi 
Administrator

On July 17, 2006, the Child Protective Services Safety Intervention Standard became effective. When a child is placed in out of home care as either part of a protective or out-of-home safety plan, the Standard requires the evaluation of safety in unlicensed and licensed homes.

The Standard provides some direction in reaching the decision of whether a placement home is safe. The attached document, Criteria for Assessing the Safety of a Foster Home or Relative Placement, was developed to further direct staff in making the determination of whether a relative or foster home is safe for a child at the time of placement, as well as confirming the safety of the placement at six month intervals, a requirement from the Adoption and Safe Families Act.

In addition, the Standard requires that safety analysis and planning be documented in the family case record. Agencies should document the initial safety assessment of the placement in the Out-of-Home Safety Plan window, in e-WiSACWIS and then update the out-of -home safety plan by confirming the safety of the placement at six month intervals. The windows in e-WiSACWIS provide the structure to document the supporting rationale related to this decision.

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MEMO WEB SITE: <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/memos>

Attachment: [Criteria for Assessing the Safety of a Foster Home or Relative Placement](#)

#memo/dcfs/ Assessing Safety in Foster and Relative Placements.doc