

Division of Safety and Permanence

DSP Informational Memo Series 2025-05i

February 21, 2025

To: DCF/DMCPS Administrator
DCF Area Administrators
Child Placing Agency Directors
Child Welfare Agency Directors
County Departments of Community Programs Directors
County Departments of Human Services Directors
County Departments of Social Services Directors
Group Home Providers
Private Child Placing Agencies
Residential Care Center Providers
Shelter Care Providers
Tribal Chairpersons

From: John Elliott
Administrator



Re: **Parent/Caregiver Protective Capacities Appendix Update February 2025**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memo is to provide information about revisions to Appendix 5: Parent/Caregiver Protective Capacities of the [Child Protective Services Safety Intervention Standards](#), which are available online as of February 21, 2025.

BACKGROUND

As part of the ongoing work to make improvements to the safety assessment and planning (SAAP) process, feedback has been gathered that highlights the importance of a thorough assessment of Parent/Caregiver Protective Capacities (PPCs) when working with families, both to determine the need for ongoing child protective services (CPS) intervention and to better understand how PPCs are used in planning.

With this in mind, Appendix 5: Parent/Caregiver Protective Capacities of the Safety Intervention Standards has been revised to:

- Make the appendix more useable.
- Remove redundant or problematic language and concepts.
- Provide greater clarity about how CPS professionals can use PPCs in their work with families.

These changes were informed by a formal Business Process Reengineering (BPR) study of the SAAP process, and through collaboration with a Safety Revisions Implementation Workgroup, comprised of participants from local child welfare agencies and the Wisconsin Child Welfare Professional Development System (WCWPDS). Additionally, feedback was sought from the Intertribal Child Welfare Committee and the Parent Partners Advisory Committee to further inform these revisions.

INFORMATION SUMMARY

While the changes made to Appendix 5: Parent/Caregiver Protective Capacities in the [Child Protective Services Safety Intervention Standards](#) do not fundamentally change practice, the updated appendix should be reviewed and used to enhance the ways PPCs are already used by CPS professionals to serve children and families. From determining whether CPS intervention is necessary through concluding CPS involvement, PPCs are a key component of the safety assessment, analysis, and planning process and serve as a way to identify, leverage, and build caregiver and family strengths.

REGIONAL OFFICE CONTACT: DCF Area Administrator

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT: Child Welfare Program and Policy Section
Bureau of Safety and Well-Being
Division of Safety and Permanence
dcfmbbswbcwpp@wisconsin.gov

MEMO WEB SITE: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/policy>