

Safety Revisions June 2022 Update: Danger Threat Language Changes

Current Present Danger Threats	Changes for June 2022 eWiSACWIS Release <i>Note: Emboldened text in this document signifies language changes or additions; strike through indicates language that was removed.</i>
1. The child is currently being maltreated at the time of report or contact	No change in June 2022
2. Severe to extreme maltreatment of the child is suspected, observed, or confirmed	No change in June 2022
3. The child has multiple or different kinds of injuries	No change in June 2022
4. The child has injuries to the face or head	No change in June 2022
5. The child has unexplained injuries	No change in June 2022
6. The maltreatment demonstrates extreme cruelty	No change in June 2022
7. The maltreatment of several victims is suspected, observed, or confirmed	No change in June 2022
8. The maltreatment appears premeditated	No change in June 2022
<p>9. Dangerous (life threatening) living arrangements are present</p> <p>This is based on specific information reported which indicates that a child’s living situation is an immediate threat to his/her safety. This includes serious health and safety circumstances such as unsafe buildings, serious fire hazards, accessible weapons, unsafe heating or wiring, etc.</p>	<p>Life threatening living arrangements are present.</p> <p>This is based on specific information reported which indicates that a child’s living situation is an immediate threat to his/her safety, for reasons other than poverty. This includes serious health and safety circumstances such as unsafe buildings, serious fire hazards, accessible weapons, unsafe heating, wiring, etc. Child welfare professionals must consider how poverty may or may not be impacting living arrangements and how potential connections to resources, instead of CPS intervention, may mitigate the concerns with the living arrangements.</p>
<p>10. Parent’s/caregiver’s viewpoint of the child is extreme and is dangerous for the child</p> <p>This refers to an extreme viewpoint that is not aligned with reality, not just a negative attitude toward the child. The parent’s/caregiver’s perception or viewpoint toward the child is so skewed and distorted that it poses an immediate danger to that child.</p>	<p>Parent’s/caregiver’s viewpoint of child is dangerous for the child.</p> <p>This refers to an extreme a a viewpoint that is not aligned with reality, not just a negative attitude toward the child. The parent’s/caregiver’s perception or viewpoint toward the child is so skewed and distorted that it poses an immediate danger to that child.</p>

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<p>11. Child is unsupervised and unable to care for self</p>	<p>No change in June 2022</p>
<p>12. Child needs medical attention</p> <p>This applies to a child of any age. The medical care required must be significant enough that its absence is likely to seriously affect the child’s physical or emotional health. Lack of routine medical care is not a Present Danger Threat.</p>	<p>The child’s immediate health needs are not being met.</p> <p>This applies to a child of any age. The medical health care required must be significant enough that its absence is likely to seriously affect the child’s physical health or emotional health. This threat is in reference to emergency health or dental care. Lack of routine health care is not a Present Danger Threat. Child welfare professionals shall consider whether the family is meeting the child’s health needs through Western medicine or the use of tribal or traditional healers.</p>
<p>13. The child is profoundly fearful of the home situation or people within the home</p>	<p>No change in June 2022</p>
<p>14. Parent/caregiver is intoxicated (alcohol or other drugs) now or is consistently under the influence</p> <p>This refers to a parent/caregiver who is intoxicated or under the influence of drugs much of the time and this impacts their ability to care for the child.</p>	<p>Parent’s/caregiver’s intoxicated behavior (alcohol or other drugs), which is occurring now or consistently over time, is impacting their ability to provide basic, necessary care and supervision.</p> <p>This refers to a parent/caregiver who is reported to be intoxicated or under the influence of drugs or alcohol now and/or much of the time and this impacts their ability to care for the child. The state of the parent’s/caregiver’s condition is more important than the use of a substance. The parent’s/caregiver’s intoxicated behavior has a direct effect on their judgment, behavior and ability to provide basic, necessary care for the child.</p>
<p>15. Parent/caregiver is out of control</p> <p>This includes mental or emotional distress, or other unusual or dangerous behaviors, where a parent/caregiver cannot manage their behaviors in order to meet their parenting responsibilities related to providing basic, necessary care and supervision. The parent’s/caregiver’s</p>	<p>A parent/caregiver cannot/will not manage their own behaviors which impacts their ability to provide basic, necessary care and supervision.</p> <p>This includes mental or emotional distress, or other unusual or dangerous behaviors, where a parent/caregiver cannot manage their behaviors in order to meet their immediate parenting responsibilities related to providing basic, necessary care and supervision. The</p>

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actions or lack of actions may not be directed at the child but may affect the child in dangerous ways.	parent's/caregiver's actions or lack of actions may not be directed at the child but may affect the child in dangerous ways.
16. Parent/caregiver is demonstrating extremely unusual or unexpected behaviors	No change in June 2022
17. Parent/caregiver is unable or unwilling to perform basic care This only refers to those parental duties and responsibilities consistent with basic care or supervision. It is important to consider what basic care is for each child, as children with disabilities will have different basic care needs compared to children without disabilities.	Parent/caregiver is not providing basic, necessary care and supervision based on the child's individual developmental needs. This only refers to those parental duties and responsibilities consistent with basic, necessary care or supervision and that the inability to provide basic care poses an immediate threat to child safety. It is important to consider what basic care is for each child and their developmental needs , as children with disabilities will have different basic care and supervision needs compared to children without disabilities.
18. Parent/caregiver is acting dangerous now or is described as dangerous	No change in June 2022
19. Parent's/caregiver's whereabouts are unknown This includes situations when a parent/caregiver cannot be located at the time of the report or contact, and this affects the safety of the child.	Parent/caregiver is not able to be located or contacted. This includes situations when a parent/caregiver cannot be located at the time of the report or contact, and this affects the safety of the child.
20. One or both parents/caregivers overtly reject intervention	No change in June 2022
21. The family may flee	No change in June 2022
22. The family hides the child	No change in June 2022
23. No change in June 2022	No change in June 2022
Current Impending Danger Threats	Changes for June 2022 eWiSACWIS Release

1. No adult in the home will perform parental duties and responsibilities.

This refers only to adults (not children) in a caregiving role. Duties and responsibilities related to the provision of food, clothing, shelter, and supervision are considered at a basic level.

This threat is illustrated by the following examples.

- Parent's/caregiver's disability (intellectual/cognitive, physical, sensory, behavior, communication) or incapacitation makes the person unable to provide basic care for the child.
- Parent/caregiver is or has been absent from the home for lengthy periods of time and no other adults are available to care for the child without CPS coordination.
- Parent/caregiver has abandoned the child.
- Parent/caregiver arranged care by an adult, but their whereabouts are unknown, or they have not returned according to plan, and the current caregiver is asking for relief.
- Parent/caregiver does not respond to or ignores a child's basic needs.
- Parent/caregiver allows the child to wander in and out of the home or through the neighborhood without the necessary supervision.
- Parent/caregiver ignores or does not provide necessary, protective supervision and basic care appropriate to the age, capacity, and/or developmental ability of the child.
- Parent/caregiver is unavailable to provide necessary protective supervision and basic care because of physical illness or incapacity.
- Parent/caregiver is or will be incarcerated thereby leaving the child without a responsible adult to provide care.
- Parent/caregiver allows other adults to improperly influence (drugs, alcohol, abusive behavior) the child.
- Child has been left with someone who does not know the parent/caregiver.

No adult in the home will perform parental duties and responsibilities in line with the child's individual developmental needs.

This refers only to adults (not children) in a caregiving role. Duties and responsibilities related to the provision of food, clothing, shelter, and supervision are considered at a basic level.

Child welfare professionals shall consider whether short-term or limited-time education or support to the parent/caregiver would mitigate the threat or if further intervention is needed.

This threat is illustrated by the following examples.

- **The parent/caregiver is unable to provide basic care for the child due to their own disability (intellectual/cognitive, physical, sensory, behavior, communication).** ~~Parent's/caregiver's disability (intellectual/cognitive, physical, sensory, behavior, communication) or incapacitation makes the person unable to provide basic care for the child.~~
- Parent/caregiver is or has been absent from the home for lengthy periods of time and no other adults are available to care for the child without CPS coordination.
- Parent/caregiver has abandoned the child.
- Parent/caregiver arranged care by an adult, but their whereabouts are unknown, or they have not returned according to plan, and the current caregiver is asking for relief.
- Parent/caregiver does not respond to or ignores a child's basic needs.
- ~~• Parent/caregiver allows the child to wander in and out of the home or through the neighborhood without the necessary supervision.~~
- Parent/caregiver ignores or does not provide necessary, protective supervision and basic care appropriate to the age, capacity, and/or developmental **ability needs** of the child.
- Parent/caregiver is unavailable to provide necessary protective supervision and basic care because of physical illness or incapacity.
- Parent/caregiver is or will be incarcerated thereby leaving the child without a responsible adult to provide care.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/caregiver allows other adults to improperly influence (drugs, alcohol, abusive behavior) the child. • Child has been left with someone who does not know the parent/caregiver.
<p>2. One or both parents/caregivers are violent.</p> <p>Violence refers to aggression, fighting, brutality, cruelty and hostility. It may be regularly, generally or potentially active.</p> <p>This threat is illustrated by the following examples.</p> <p><i>Domestic Violence:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/caregiver physically and/or verbally assaults their partner and the child witnesses the activity and is fearful for self and/or others. • Parent/caregiver threatens, attacks, or injures both their partner and the child. • Parent/caregiver threatens, attacks, or injures their partner and the child attempts or may attempt to intervene. • Parent/caregiver threatens, attacks, or injures their partner and the child is harmed even though the child may not be the actual target of the violence. • Parent/caregiver threatens to harm the child or withhold necessary care from the child in order to intimidate or control their partner. <p><i>General violence:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/caregiver whose behavior outside of the home (drugs, violence, aggressiveness, hostility, etc.) creates an environment within the home that could reasonably cause severe harm to the child (e.g. drug parties, gangs, drive-by shootings). • Parent/caregiver who is impulsive, explosive or out of control, having temper outbursts which result in violent physical actions (e.g. throwing things). 	<p>One or both parent’s/caregiver’s behavior shows a pattern of violence.</p> <p>Violence refers to aggression, fighting, brutality, cruelty and hostility. Pattern of violence means ongoing violent behaviors which result in situations where a child is unsafe or is likely to be unsafe. Violent behaviors include physical fighting, hitting, beating, physically assaulting a child, significant other or another adult member of the household. It may be immediately observable, regularly active or in a constant state of unpredictability. It may be regularly, generally or potentially active.</p> <p>This is illustrated by the following examples.</p> <p><i>Domestic Violence:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/caregiver physically and/or verbally assaults their partner and the child witnesses the activity and is fearful for self and/or others. • Parent/caregiver threatens, attacks, or injuries both their partner and the child. • Parent/caregiver threatens, attacks, or injures their partner and the child attempts or may attempt to intervene. • Parent/caregiver threatens, attacks, or injures their partner and the child is harmed even though the child may not be the actual target of the violence. • Parent/caregiver threatens to harm the child or withhold necessary care from the child in order to intimidate or control their partner. <p><i>General violence: Pattern of Violence</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/caregiver whose behavior outside of the home (drugs, violence, aggressiveness, hostility, etc.) creates an

	<p>environment within the home that could reasonably cause severe harm to the child (e.g. drug parties, gangs, drive-by shootings).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent/caregiver who is physically impulsive, explosive or out of control, having temper outbursts or unanticipated and harmful physical reactions. which result in violent physical actions (e.g. throwing things).
<p>3. One or both parents'/caregivers' behavior is dangerously impulsive or they will not/cannot control their behavior.</p> <p>This threat is about self-control (e.g. a person's ability to postpone or set aside needs, plan, be dependable, avoid destructive behavior, use good judgment, not act on impulses, exert energy and action or manage emotions. Parent's/ caregiver's lack of self-control places vulnerable children in jeopardy. This threat includes parents/caregivers who are incapacitated or not controlling their behavior because of mental health or substance abuse issues). Poor impulse control or lack of self-control includes behaviors other than aggression and can lead to severe harm to a child.</p> <p>This threat is illustrated in the following examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/caregiver is seriously depressed and functionally unable to meet the child's basic needs • Parent/caregiver is chemically dependent and unable to control the dependency's effects. • Substance abuse renders the parent/caregiver incapable of routinely/consistently attending to child's basic needs. • Parent/caregiver makes impulsive decisions and plans that leave the child in precarious situations (e.g. unsupervised, supervised by an unreliable person). 	<p>One or both parents/caregivers has impulsive behavior that they cannot/will not control.</p> <p>This threat is about self-control (e.g. a person's ability to postpone or set aside needs, plan, be dependable, avoid destructive behavior, use good judgment, not act on impulses, exert energy and action or manage emotions. Parent's/ caregiver's lack of self-control places vulnerable children in jeopardy. This threat includes parents/caregivers who are incapacitated or not controlling their behavior because of mental health or substance abuse issues). Poor impulse control or lack of self-control includes behaviors other than aggression and can lead to severe harm to a child.</p> <p>This threat is illustrated by the following examples.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/caregiver is seriously depressed and functionally unable to meet the child's basic needs. • Parent/caregiver is chemically dependent and unable to control the dependency's effects. • Substance abuse renders the parent/caregiver incapable of routinely/consistently attending to child's basic needs. • Parent/caregiver makes impulsive decisions and plans to leave the child in precarious situations (e.g. unsupervised, supervised by an unreliable person). • Parent/caregiver spends money impulsively resulting in a lack of basic necessities.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/caregiver spends money impulsively resulting in a lack of basic necessities. • Parent/caregiver is emotionally immobilized (chronically or situational) and cannot control behavior. • Parent/caregiver has addictive patterns or behaviors (e.g. addiction to substances, gambling, computers) that are uncontrolled and leave the child in potentially severe situations (e.g. failure to supervise or provide other basic care) • Parent/caregiver is delusional or experiencing hallucinations. • Parent/caregiver cannot control sexual impulses (e.g. sexual activity with or in front of the child). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/caregiver is emotionally immobilized (chronically or situational) and cannot control behavior. • Parent/caregiver has addictive patterns or behaviors (e.g. addiction to substances, gambling, computers) that are uncontrolled and leave the child in potentially severe situations (e.g. failure to supervise or provide other basic care). • Parent/caregiver is delusional or experiencing hallucinations and is unable to meet the child's basic needs. • Parent/caregiver cannot control sexual impulses (e.g. sexual activity with or in front of the child).
<p>4. One or both parents/caregivers have extremely negative perceptions of the child.</p> <p>“Extremely” means a negative perception that is so exaggerated that an out-of-control response by the parent/caregiver is likely and will have severe harm for the child.</p> <p>This threat is illustrated by the following examples.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child is perceived to be evil, deficient, or embarrassing. • Child is perceived as having the same characteristics as someone the parent/caregiver hates or is fearful of or hostile towards, and the parent/caregiver transfers feelings and perceptions to the child. • Child is considered to be punishing or torturing the parent/caregiver (e.g., responsible for difficulties in parent's/caregiver's life, limitations to their freedom, conflicts, losses, financial or other burdens). • One parent/caregiver is jealous of the child and believes the child is a detriment or threat to the 	<p>One or both parents/caregivers have exaggerated, negative perceptions of the child.</p> <p>This threat describes a negative perception that is so exaggerated that the parent/caregiver is likely to have a dangerous response that “Extremely” means a negative perception that is so exaggerated that an out-of-control response by the parent/caregiver is likely and will have severe harm for the child.</p> <p>This threat is illustrated by the following examples.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child is perceived to be evil, deficient, or embarrassing. • Child is perceived as having the same characteristics as someone the parent/caregiver hates or is fearful of or hostile towards, and the parent/caregiver transfers feelings and perceptions to the child. • Child is considered to be punishing or torturing the parent/caregiver (e.g., responsible for difficulties in parent's/caregiver's life, limitations to their freedom, conflicts, losses, financial or other burdens). • One parent/caregiver is jealous of the child and believes the child is a detriment or threat to the parent's/caregiver's intimate relationship and/or other parent.

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<p>parent's/caregiver's intimate relationship and/or other parent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/caregiver sees the child as an undesirable extension of self and views the child with some sense of purging or punishing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/caregiver sees the child as an undesirable extension of self and views the child with some sense of purging or punishing.
<p>5. Family does not have or use resources necessary to assure the child's basic needs.</p> <p>"Basic needs" refers to a family's lack of 1) minimal resources to provide shelter, food, and clothing or 2) the capacity to use resources for basic needs, even when available.</p> <p>This threat is illustrated by the following examples.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family has insufficient money to provide basic and protective care. • Family has insufficient food, clothing, or shelter for basic needs of the child. • Family finances are insufficient to support needs that, if unmet, could result in severe harm to the child. • Parent/caregiver lacks life management skills to properly use resources when they are available. • Family is routinely using their resources for things (e.g. drugs) other than for basic care and support thereby leaving them without their basic needs being adequately met. 	<p>Family does not use known, available, and accessible resources to assure the child's essential needs for food, clothing, and/or shelter are met.</p> <p>This threat only refers to essential needs for food, clothing and/or shelter that if chronically unmet will likely result in serious harm to the child. Note: It may be likely that another Impending Danger Threat is a better fit to describe the current family condition.</p> <p>A family's experience of poverty alone does not indicate the appropriateness of this threat. Child welfare professionals must consider the intersection of poverty and the family's ability to meet the child's essential needs; as well as how potential connections to resources, instead of CPS intervention, may mitigate this threat.</p> <p>As a reminder, local child welfare agencies are still required to maintain Active Efforts and provide culturally appropriate services for Native America families whenever possible.</p> <p>This threat may be illustrated in the following examples.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/caregiver is unwilling or refusing to use resources they are aware of and have access to. • Family is routinely using their resources for things (e.g. drugs) other than for basic care and support thereby leaving them without their basic essential needs being adequately met. • Family has insufficient money to provide basic and protective care.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Family has insufficient food, clothing, or shelter for basic needs of the child. ● Family finances are insufficient to support needs that, if unmet, could result in severe harm to the child. ● Parent/caregiver lacks life management skills to properly use resources when they are available.
6. One or both parents/caregivers fear they will maltreat the child and/or request placement.	No change in June 2022
7. One or both parents/caregivers intend(ed) to seriously hurt the child.	No change in June 2022
8. One or both parents/caregivers lack parenting knowledge, skills, or motivation necessary to assure the child's basic needs are met.	No change in June 2022
9. The child has exceptional needs which the parents/caregivers cannot or will not meet.	No change in June 2022
10. Living arrangements seriously endanger the child's physical health.	No change in June 2022
11. The child is profoundly fearful of the home situation or people within the home.	No change in June 2022