

Safety Revisions – February 2025

eWiSACWIS Enhancements

December 2024

Improving Child Welfare

Four projects focused on supporting the workforce and centering children, youth, and families.



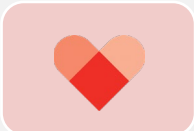
Initial Assessment Improvement Project



Safety Revisions



Quality Case Planning



Independent Living Project

Small Changes to eWiSACWIS

A handful of changes are coming to the safety assessment, analysis, and plan (SAAP) in eWiSACWIS in February 2025 that will streamline the process and documentation, elevate protectiveness, and highlight agencies' responsibility to engage with tribes.

Because changes to the safety assessment, analysis, and planning process will impact families and Child Protective Services (CPS) professionals, the Department of Children and Families is being deliberate about introducing incremental changes, one step at a time. See an overview of the current phase of Safety Revisions [here](#).

Improved Workflow

The February 2025 changes to eWiSACWIS are designed to streamline elements of the workflow, support critical thinking, and encourage best practices.

1. If no safety threats are identified, the child is **Safe**.
2. If there is an identified safety threat and a protective adult in the child's home who can protect from that threat, the child is **Safe**.
3. If there is an identified safety threat and no protective adult in the home, the determination is **Unsafe**.

The protective adult question will appear earlier in the workflow to reflect that there is no need for further involvement or intervention when a protective adult is in the home.

To support best practices in safety planning, there will be text boxes to document:

- How a parent/caregiver's extended network was involved in planning.
- The presence of Parental Protective Capacities (PPCs) and other strengths.
- The critical thinking that went into creating the least intrusive plan possible.

When there is an out-of-home placement, there will be space to record why an in-home plan wasn't feasible and what is necessary for reunification. This will also give families clear information about safety concerns and next steps.

Purpose

The Safety Revisions project has two primary goals:

- 1) Centering parents/caregivers throughout the safety decision-making process.
- 2) Making the safety decision-making process easier for families to understand and the workforce to implement.





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Protectiveness

These changes to the SAAP highlight that the presence of a protective adult in the child's home means further CPS intervention isn't needed. The February 2025 changes also emphasize the role of Parental Protective Capacities (PPCs) throughout the safety assessment, analysis, and planning process. PPCs are important in helping to identify when CPS involvement isn't needed. They are equally important to leverage and build upon when CPS intervention results in an in-home safety plan or out-of-home placement.

Supporting Indian Children & Fulfilling the Responsibility to Engage with Tribes

When a child has Native American heritage, it is both important and required to identify any potential tribal affiliation and make diligent efforts to confirm the child's Indian status. Additionally, CPS agencies must collaborate with an Indian child's tribe/s when assessing and case planning.

Mirroring recent changes to the Initial Assessment (IA), there will be a new dynamic ICWA/WICWA tab that appears whenever a child is identified as being a member of a tribe, eligible for membership, or whose membership status is pending.

The new ICWA/WICWA tab in the SAAP will provide space for CPS professionals to document attempts to confirm a child's Indian status and the efforts the CPS agency is making to fulfill its responsibility to engage the tribe/s.

What the Workgroup is Saying

CPS agency representatives who are participating on the Safety Revisions Implementation Workgroup shared their thoughts on the coming eWiSACWIS changes, including:

- This will be good for documenting the thought process and decision making.
- This reflects what professionals are already doing in practice. It just documents it differently.
- I like the new flow and am relieved there aren't radical changes.
- It will be helpful for both the supervisor and the worker.
- Identifying a protective adult earlier in the process makes it clear that a child is safe and intervention isn't needed.
- I'm excited to share this with families and to say, "Yes, there are struggles, but we're highlighting your strengths just as much."

Timeline (updated)

- Dec. 2024** Communication about the February changes continues through the launch; eWiSACWIS Release Highlights available in Knowledge Web
- Late Jan.** eWiSACWIS Release Notes available in Knowledge Web
- Jan. 29** eWiSACWIS Release Preview webinar
- Feb. 21** [Safety Intervention Standards: Appendix 5 edits online](#)
- Feb. 22** [Launch of eWiSACWIS updates](#)
- March** Post-launch support, if needed