

Safety Revisions – February 2025

Parent/Caregiver Protective Capacities

January 2025

Improving Child Welfare

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



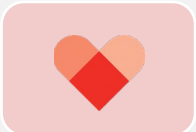
Initial Assessment Improvement Project



Safety Revisions



Quality Case Planning



Independent Living Project

February 2025 Safety Revisions

Because changes to the safety assessment, analysis, and planning process 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.

An overview of this phase of Safety Revisions is available [here](#) and more information about the February 2025 Safety Revisions changes to eWiSACWIS can be found [here](#).

Safety Intervention Standards Updates

Appendix 5: Parent/Caregiver Protective Capacities (PPCs) of the [Safety Intervention Standards](#) is being updated as part of the February 2025 Safety Revisions release.

These updates serve to:

- Make the appendix more usable.
- Remove buzzwords and problematic concepts.
- Provide a more intentional focus on identifying a family’s strengths with input from families and their support networks.

While these updates will not fundamentally change practice, they are meant to make the appendix more helpful and are important steps towards supporting the growth of best practice across the state.

Since PPC practice differs from agency to agency, the impact on local practice will be different. However, staff who have already attended safety training will not need to be retrained.

Improved Flow

Appendix 5 will be restructured to improve its readability and utility. In particular, the introduction will be broken out into sections with headers, and redundancies will be removed from the PPCs.

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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PPC Revisions

Problematic language and concepts are being removed from the PPCs. This echoes the work that was previously done to remove buzzwords from the Present and Impending Danger Threats. Some PPCs will be completely removed, many are being rewritten, and new examples will be provided. Language will also be added to recognize that PPCs can look different for individual people based on their background, culture, circumstances, etc.

Parent/Caregiver Perspective

The revised appendix will emphasize the importance of ensuring parents/caregivers have the opportunity to:

- Identify their own strengths and protective capacities.
- Include anyone from their support network in the safety assessment process.

These updates support best practice for working with families and recognize that parents/caregivers know themselves and their friends and family know them better than CPS professionals ever could.

The updates will highlight the role of a family's support network in the protective capacities themselves by adding examples that intentionally include the support network.

What the Workgroup is Saying

CPS agency representatives who are participating on the Safety Revisions Implementation Workgroup shared their thoughts on the edits to Appendix 5, including:

- The [revised] appendix is easier to read and more understandable.
- Before, the PPCs felt like checking things off. Now, it's capturing a holistic picture of someone's parenting and strengths.
- I appreciate the reduced number [of PPCs]. They're more streamlined and more relevant.
- The rewording is helpful.
- [Highlighting that] PPCs can be seen and demonstrated in different ways is good.

Timeline

Quarter 1	Continuing communication about the February changes
Late Jan.	eWiSACWIS Release Notes available in Knowledge Web
Jan. 29	eWiSACWIS Release Preview webinar
Feb. 21	Updated Safety Intervention Standards: Appendix 5 available online
Feb. 22	Launch of eWiSACWIS updates
March	Post-launch support, if needed