Safety Threat Revisions – An Overview

October 2026

Exciting News!

In February 2027, the Division of Safety and Permanence (DSP) will release updates to the Present Danger Threats (PDTs) and Impending Danger Threats (IDTs). These revisions align with our goals of being family-focused and supporting the child welfare workforce as we strive to keep more children safely in their homes.

Background

Safety threats were removed from Access response time decision-making in June 2026. Since then, PDTs and IDTs are no longer used to determine how quickly CPS responds to a screened-in report of child maltreatment. This change at Access means the safety threats can focus solely on safety assessment after contact is made with the family, including determining when protective action is needed.



Guiding Principles

The updated PDTs and IDTs will continue to focus on child safety while also:

- Streamlining and adding greater clarity to the lists.
- Decreasing unnecessary system involvement.
- Removing language that reinforces bias.
- Making the safety threats easier to understand for both families and CPS professionals.

Statewide Input, Solid Results

The revisions were informed by national research, data on the use of the current safety threats in Wisconsin, and case reviews. DSP also collaborated with CPS agencies and key audiences to revise the safety threats. These diverse perspectives contributed to developing a strong final set of PDTs and IDTs that focus on child safety and support families and CPS professionals.

Additionally, DSP and nine CPS agencies from around Wisconsin engaged in a thought exercise using the revised lists to assess safety in the context of real family situations. None of the results from this exercise were applied in practice or entered into eWiSACWIS. This opportunity allowed agencies to see how the new lists would function. When asked about their overall experience, agencies said the updated safety threats are:

- Clearer, more straightforward, and easier to apply.
- More family friendly.
- In line with the safety concerns that agencies see.
- Focused on behavior and family response.

One participant summed up the overall feedback: ***"Great changes! More family first and focused on the purpose of CPS intervention."***

What to Expect

DSP will share plenty of information to prepare CPS professionals, supervisors, and agency leadership ahead of the safety threat changes!

- During the remainder of 2026, watch for short videos on the DCF YouTube channel and information sheets like this one.
- Around the new year, DSP will provide talking points to help local agency leaders discuss the changes with community partners and key audiences.
- Starting in January, training and pre-launch support will be available, including the ever-popular Supervisors Guide.
- Safety Intervention Standards changes and related eWiSACWIS updates will be released later in February. Watch for confirmed dates after the new year!