

# 17 Safety Threats



1. The family/facility situation results in no adults in the home/facility performing parenting/child care duties and responsibilities that assure child's safety.
2. The family/facility situation is that the living/child care arrangement(s) seriously endanger the child's physical health.
3. Caregiver(s) are acting (behaving) violently or dangerously and the behaviors impact child safety.
4. There has been an incident of domestic violence that impacts child safety.  
If "Yes," complete the questions below:
  - a. The domestic violence perpetrator has caused serious harm or threats of harm against the adult victim/caregiver of the child.
  - b. The domestic violence perpetrator has seriously harmed or threatened serious harm to the child.
  - c. The level of violence and/or threats toward either the adult victim or child is increasing so that serious harm is likely to occur.
  - d. There are other indications of increased dangers from the domestic violence perpetrator such as suicide threats or attempts, substance abuse or threats with weapons.
5. Caregiver(s) will not or cannot control their behavior and their behavior impacts child safety.
6. Caregiver(s) perceives child in extremely negative terms.
7. Caregiver(s) do not have or do not use resources necessary to meet the child's immediate basic needs which present an immediate threat of serious harm to a child.
8. Caregivers' attitudes, emotions and behaviors are such that they are threatening to severely harm a child or are fearful they will maltreat the child or request placement.
9. Caregiver(s) intend(ed) to seriously hurt the child.
10. Caregiver(s) lack the parenting knowledge, skills or motivation necessary to ensure a child's safety.
11. Caregiver(s) overtly rejects DCYF intervention, refuses access to a child or there is some indication that the caregiver(s) will flee.
12. Caregiver(s) are not meeting, cannot meet or will not meet the child's exceptional physical, emotional, medical, or behavioral needs.
13. Caregiver(s) cannot or will not explain child's injuries or maltreating condition(s) or explanation is not consistent with the facts.
14. A child has serious physical injuries or serious physical conditions resulting from maltreatment.
15. A child shows serious emotional symptoms or lacks behavioral control that results in self-destructive behaviors or provokes dangerous reactions in caregivers.
16. A child is fearful of the home/facility situation or people within the home/facility.
17. Child sexual abuse is suspected, has occurred or circumstances suggest sexual abuse is likely to occur.



# Safety Threshold Criteria

To determine if a safety threat exists, **all five** of the following criteria must be met:

- Severe consequences to a child.
- Immediate or will occur in the near future.
- Vulnerable child in relation to the safety threat.
- Out-of-Control: There is no responsible parent/caregiver or adult in the home that can prevent the threat.
- Behaviors, conditions, etc., that are specific, observable and clearly understood.



Washington State Department of  
**CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**