

**CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES (CPS)
RESPONSE SYSTEM**
*(Effective July 1, 2010)***RESPONSE TIME #1 – 2 Hours**

For the purpose of determining the initial response to a report at the Child Abuse Hotline, present danger refers to an immediate, significant and clearly observable family condition present now which has resulted in or is likely to result in serious or severe harm requiring an immediate initial response.

The following conditions suggest that a child may be in present danger:

EXTENT OF MALTREATMENT

1. Death of a child due to physical abuse, neglect or suspicious death
2. Serious injuries including but not limited to:
 - fractures
 - immersion burns, second or third degree burns
 - shaken baby syndrome
 - multiple plane injuries
3. Serious injuries to face or head including but not limited to:
 - bruises
 - cuts
 - abrasions
 - swelling
4. Injuries to a non-ambulatory child
5. Injuries to a child up to one (1) year of age
6. Unknown injuries, but child under the age of six (6) observed or reported to be forcefully struck in the face, head, neck, genitalia or abdomen which could likely cause an injury.
7. Child injured during an incident of domestic violence.
8. The restriction of movement or confinement of a child to an enclosed area and/or uses a threat of harm or intimidation to force a child to remain in a location or position which may include:
 - tying a child's arms or legs together
 - tying a child to an object
 - locking a child in a cage
9. Physical injury resulting from permitting a child to enter or remain in a structure or vehicle that is used for the purposes of manufacturing dangerous drugs.
10. Living environment is an immediate threat to child's safety. This would include the most serious health circumstances, such as buildings capable of collapsing, exposure to elements in extreme weather, fire hazards, electrical wiring exposed, weapons accessible and available, access to dangerous objects or harmful substances, manufacturing of drugs (i.e. meth lab), etc.

11. Child presents with clear physical indicators of malnourishment such as dehydrated or failure to thrive (a.k.a. poor weight gain or pediatric undernourishment).
12. Child requires emergency medical care and caregiver is unwilling or unable to seek treatment.
13. A substance exposed newborn who is scheduled for discharge within 24 hours or is at home. Substance exposed newborn is defined as an infant (birth to one (1) year of age) exposed prenatally to alcohol or drugs including an infant who is exhibiting symptoms consistent with fetal alcohol syndrome or fetal alcohol effects.
14. Caregiver provides the child prescribed/non-prescribed or adult medications, or illegal drugs or alcohol and the child requires emergency medical care.
15. Child left alone and is not capable of caring for self or other children.
16. Evidence or disclosure of current sexual abuse (sexual contact only) **and** the perpetrator currently has or will have access to the identified victim within the next 48 hours. This does not include historical allegations of sexual abuse, unless there is a clear threat of reoccurrence.

CHILD FUNCTIONING

17. Child is extremely fearful because of their home situation, present circumstance or because of a threat of additional abuse or neglect. This does not refer to fear of legal disciplinary practices or generalized fear.
18. Child is a danger to self or others now and caregiver cannot or will not control the child's behavior.

ADULT FUNCTIONING

19. Child was in close proximity to an incident of domestic violence and could have been injured. This includes being held by one of the adults during the incident.
20. Caregiver is described as physically or verbally imposing and threatening, brandishing weapons, or currently behaving in attacking or aggressive ways.
21. The caregiver describes or acts toward the child in predominantly negative terms or has a distorted view of the child or has extremely unrealistic expectations given the child's age or level of development.
22. Caregiver is **incapacitated** due to substance use/abuse, behavioral/mental illness including depression and situational stress, physical impairment, and/or cognitive functioning **and** is unable to perform parental responsibilities consistent with basic needs or child safety, leaving the child in a threatened state.
23. Caregiver is actively placing child in dangerous situations or fails to protect the child from imminent threats from other persons.
24. Caregiver permits a child to enter or remain in a structure or vehicle that is used for the purposes of manufacturing dangerous drugs.
25. Evidence of abuse or neglect and the caregiver denies access to or will flee with child to avoid CPS contact.

RESPONSE TIME #2 – 48 Hours

Impending danger refers to a family condition that may not be occurring in the present but is likely to occur in the immediate to near future and will likely result in serious or severe harm to a child.

All information gathered is analyzed to the following five factors – if all safety threshold criteria are met, the report meets Response Time #2 criteria.

SAFETY THRESHOLD CRITERIA – HOTLINE VERSION

- Specific & Observable – The family’s condition can be described in specific behavioral terms.
- Out-of-Control – Beyond the control of any adult in the household to prevent the impending danger or unknown whether any adult is present or able to control the situation.
- Vulnerable Child – Reliant or dependent on others for protection.
- Severity – Likely to cause serious or severe harm to a child.
- Imminence (Specific Time Frame) – Likely to occur within the next 72 hours.

RESPONSE TIME #3 – 72 Hours

Reports that do not rise to the level of present or impending danger, but there is an incident of abuse or neglect that occurred in the past 30 days. This includes a current minor injury to the child.

RESPONSE TIME #4 – 7 Consecutive Days

Reports that do not rise to the level of present or impending danger, but:

- there is an incident of abuse or neglect that occurred more than 30 days ago, or
- the date of last occurrence is unknown and there is no current physical indicator of maltreatment, or
- there is UNREASONABLE risk of harm to the child’s health or welfare.

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