DANGER AND SAFETY ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS/PERMANENCY

PRACTICE AND FACES.NET TIP SHEET

Original Creation Date: January 14, 2016
Updated Date: October 9, 2019

The purpose of the SDM Danger and Safety Assessment is to help assess whether any child is likely to be in imminent danger of serious harm/maltreatment, and to determine whether a safety plan can be created to provide appropriate protection from that danger or if the child needs to be removed from the home.

The Danger and Safety Assessment is a Household focused assessment through which workers arrive at an individual decision for each child.

Section 1: Community Partnerships Practice

What is the Danger and Safety Assessment (DAS)?
- The Danger and Safety Assessment (DAS) is a **HOUSEHOLD**-based assessment that you will use to assess the **IMPACT** the **CAREGIVER** is having on the child. It informs what you are worried about and helps you to determine if the child can remain safely in the home.
- You ultimately reach an assessment decision for **EACH CHILD** in that Household.

When is the DAS used?
- A DAS should be completed on all removal cases within 30 days of removal when children remain in the home and documented in FACES.NET within 24 hours.
- A DAS should also be completed on ongoing open cases in which changing circumstances prompt a new DAS (i.e. changes in family composition or living situation, new information known about the family or changes in the ability to safety plan to address identified dangers.) The DAS process should be completed immediately and documented in FACES.NET within one business day.
- An updated DAS must be completed within 30 days of a safety plan being implemented.
- A DAS must be completed within 30 days after a child is placed back in the home under protective supervision (changes in family composition)
- A DAS must be completed within 30 days prior to case closure.

How is a DAS initiated?
- You must develop a Household in FACES.NET that includes the caregivers and the children that reside in the home.

If the child is a member of two Households, which Household does the DAS need to be completed on?
- The DAS must be completed on the Household where the child lives most of the time.
- If the child lives 50/50 in 2 Households, you should consult with your supervisor to determine if both Households should be assessed. NOTE: One DAS cannot be applied to multiple Households.

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What prompts me to consider safety planning with a family?

- If there are any danger indicators present for any child in the household, you will proceed with identifying *Considerations for Safety Planning* which will help determine if a temporary safety plan is needed to protect the child and address the dangers while allowing the family to remain intact.
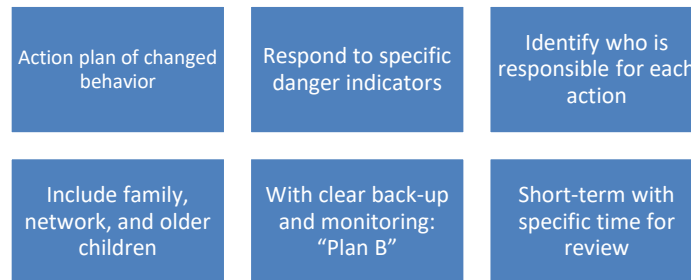
Action plan of changed behavior	Respond to specific danger indicators	Identify who is responsible for each action
Include family, network, and older children	With clear back-up and monitoring: "Plan B"	Short-term with specific time for review

Figure 1

How many Assessment Decisions can be made and what are they?

- There are 3 Assessment Decisions:
  - SAFE: No Dangers exist. No safety interventions are required
  - SAFE WITH A PLAN: Danger indicators exist; a safety plan has been created with the family to address the danger while the family remains intact.
  - UNSAFE: As least one child has been found to be unsafe; 1 or more danger indicators are present that cannot be controlled using a safety plan. – A REMOVAL HAS OCCURRED.

What if the DAS shows the family to be *safe with a plan*?

- If it is determined from your DAS that your family is *safe with a plan, then* you must meet with the family and create a safety plan that addresses the active danger indicators present in the child's household and the plan effectively protects the child and address the dangers. The safety plan should last 2 to 4 weeks.
- The safety plan must be reviewed at each contact with the family to ensure the plan is working and adjustments made as needed over the duration of the plan. Information on how the plan is working must be documented in FACES.NET as a contact note.
- If a case is transferred from CPS to Permanency with an active safety plan, the plan MUST be reviewed by both the CPS worker and receiving Permanency workers together prior to the transfer.
- A case CANNOT be closed if dangers are present and/or if there is an active safety plan in place.
- If the most recent DAS documents the presence of dangers, the worker must update the assessment in FACES.NET prior to closing the case.

What if I am unable to see a child… would I complete the DAS?

- NOT in its entirety. Complete the assessment on the other children in that Household, then select *unable to assess* in FACES.NET for the child(ren) who could not be seen.
- There are six choices to consider when *unable to assess* is selected: Abscondence, Incarceration, Unable to Locate, Out of Jurisdiction, Emancipation, and Child Fatality

Who do I go to for support?

- If you have any questions about the tool, talk to your supervisor or your program manager. If you have any questions about its use in FACES, talk to the FACES helpdesk.

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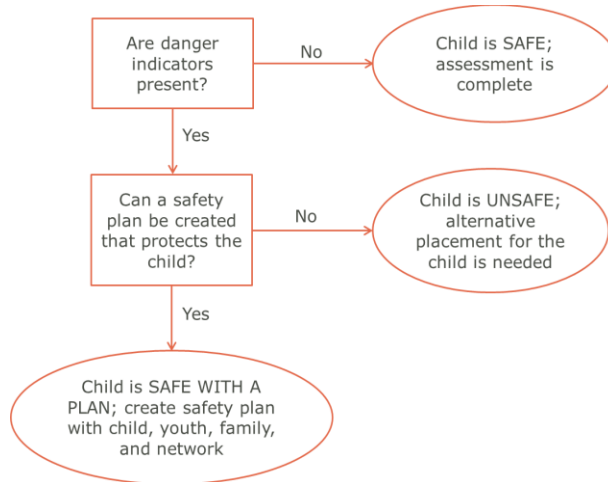
Danger and Safety Assessment Flow

Figure 2

Section 2: FACES.NET

Pointers to Remember:

1. A Household must be created prior to completing the FACES.NET Danger and Safety Assessment.
2. Any changes made to the Household after approval of the Danger and Safety Assessment will invalidate the Assessment. A new Danger and Safety Assessment is required.
3. An Assessment Decision must be selected for each child.

Danger and Safety Assessment:

Steps include:
Put Case into focus

Step 1: Navigate from **Case**, **Case Plan**, **Household Assessment, Danger and Safety Assessment**, **List of Assessments**.

Step 2: Select **Household**.

Step 3: Click **New**.

1: Navigate to **Danger & Safety Assmt**.

Figure 3

2: Select **Household**.

3: Click **New**.
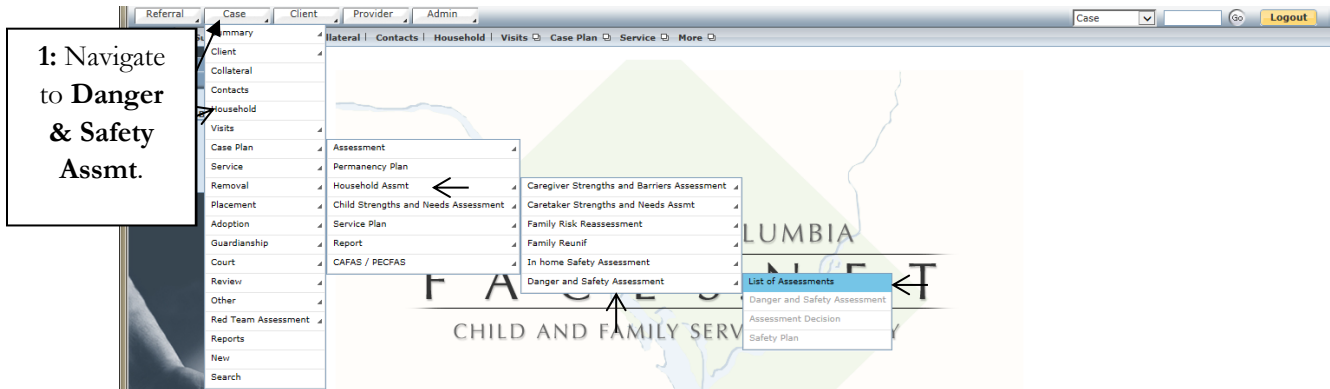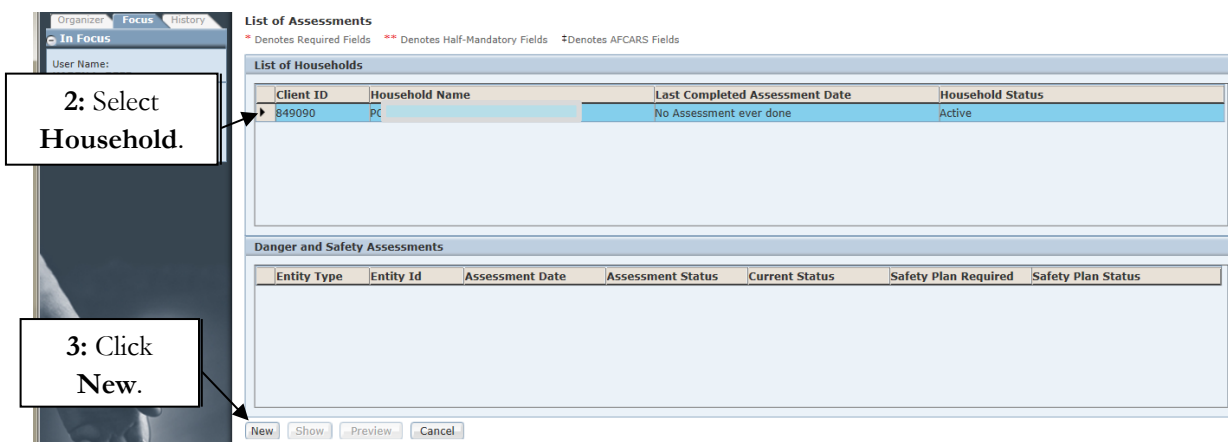
Figure 4

Note:
- If the last Assessment for the selected Household is not approved, "New" button is disabled.
- If the last Assessment for the selected Household requires a safety plan and a safety plan is not yet approved, "New" button is disabled.
- If the Case is closed the "New" button is disabled.
- List of assessments screen will display completed assessments associated with the Household and assessments completed and case connected from the referral.

Step 4: Enter **Assessment Date**.

Step 5: Complete **Assessment Questions** and **Select Client**(s), as applicable.

Step 6: Enter **Description of Danger Indicators**.

Step 7: Click **Save**.

4: Enter **Assessment Date**.

5: Complete **Assessment Questions** and **Select Client**(s), as applicable.

6: Enter **Danger Indicator Description**.

7: Click **Save**.

Figure 5

Note:
- The Assessment Type will automatically be selected. However, it can be changed if it's not the initial.
- If "No" is selected for each question the **Consideration for Safety Planning** tab will be disabled.
- The **Description of Danger Indicators** section is mandatory.
- If "Yes" is selected for any question, then the applicable client(s) should be selected for that question.
- If "Yes" is selected for any question the **Consideration for Safety Planning** tab will be mandatory.
- The subcategories are required for those questions that are marked "Yes".

Step 8: Complete **Consideration for Safety Planning** (if applicable).

Step 9: Enter **Description of Safety Planning Details** in the narrative field.

Step 10: Click **Save**.

Figure 6

Step 11: Click on the **Assessment Decision Screen**.

Step 12: Select a **Safety Decision** for each child (Safe, Safe with a Plan, Unsafe, Unable to complete Assessment) and **Select Client**(s), as applicable.

Step 13: Click **Save**.

11: Click **Assessment Decision**.

12: Select **Assessment Decision** and **Select Client**(s), as applicable.

13: Click **Save**.

14: Click **Approval**.

Figure 7

Step 14: Click **Approval** to request approval from Supervisor.

Step 15: Select **Request**.

Step 16: Click **OK**.

15: Click **Request**.

16: Click **Ok**.

Figure 8

Note:
- A safety decision must be selected for each child.
- If "Safe with a Plan" is selected, at least one of the safety components must be selected. A description is also required in this section.
- If "Safe with a Plan" is selected and approved, the Safety Plan screen is required (*See Figure 9*).
- If "Unsafe" is selected, a subcategory must be checked and the child(ren) must be identified in that section.
- The Assessment Decision must be approved prior to completing the Safety Plan (if applicable).
- Any changes made to the household after approval of the Danger and Safety Assessment will invalidate the Assessment. A new Danger and Safety Assessment is required.

Step 17: Complete **Safety Plan** Narratives (If applicable).

Step 18: Click **Save**.

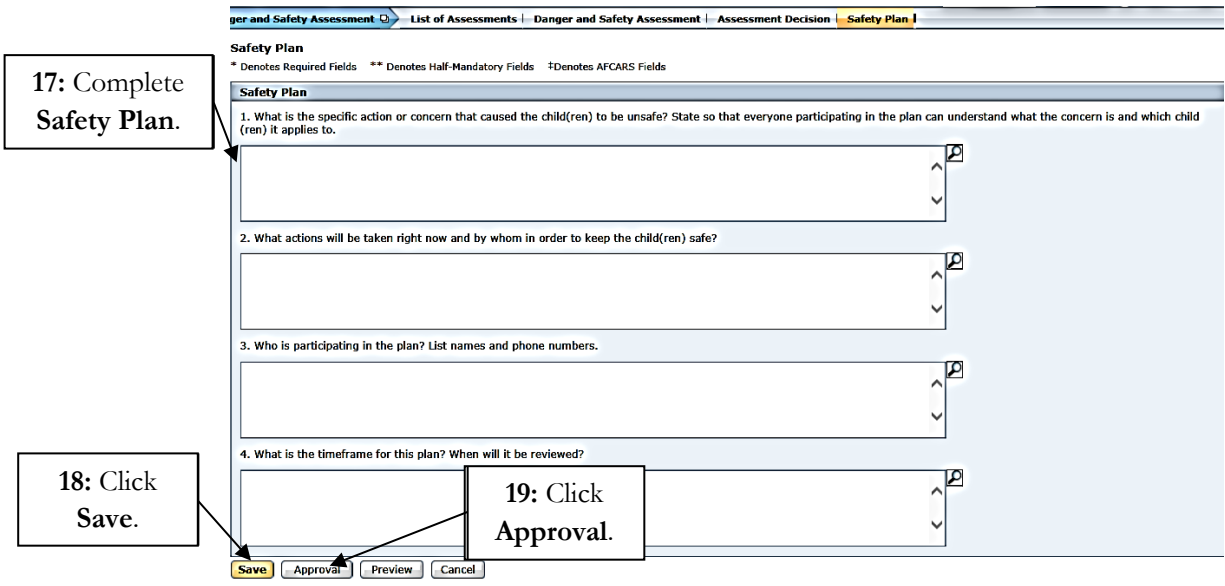**Step 19:** Click **Approval** to request approval from Supervisor.

17: Complete Safety Plan.

18: Click Save.

19: Click Approval.

Figure 9

Step 20: Click **Request**.

Step 21: Click **Ok**.

20: Click Request.

21: Click Ok.
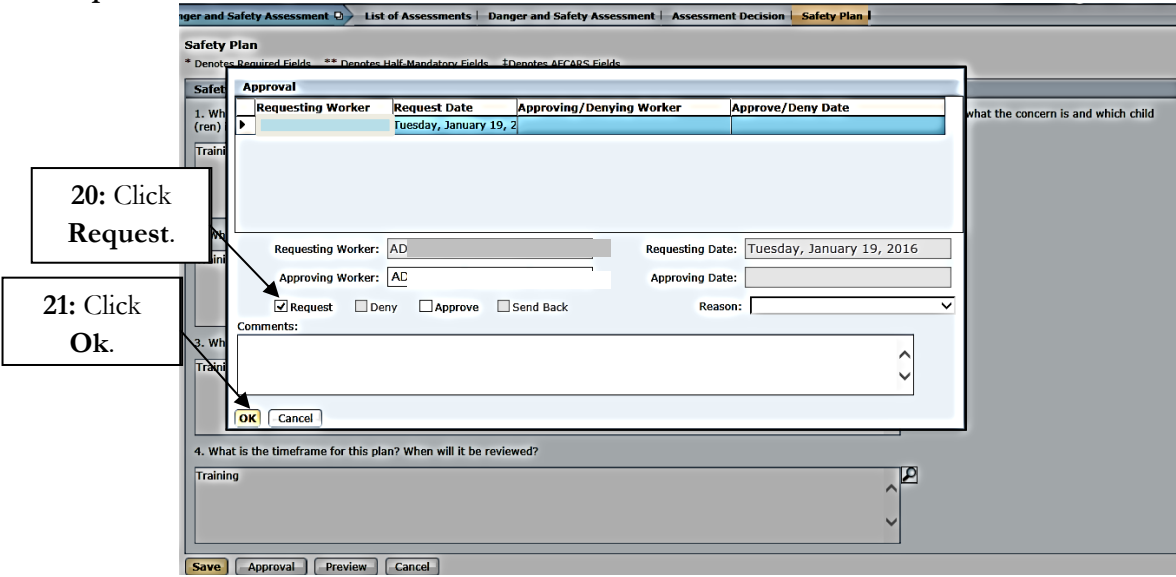
Figure 10

*Click the **Preview** button to view and print the Safety Plan Document.*

Figure 11

Note:

- A Danger and Safety Assessment should be completed within 30 days of case closure.
- A case cannot be closed if any of the children in active Households are marked as unsafe in the latest safety assessment.
- All active Households at the time of case closure should have an approved Danger and Safety assessment.

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