
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.

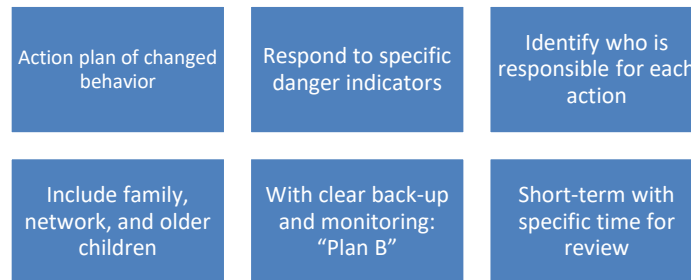


Figure 1

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

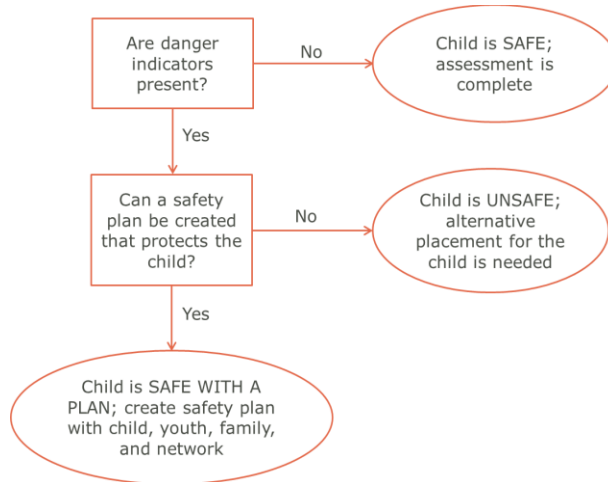


Figure 2

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.**

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Step 3: Click New.

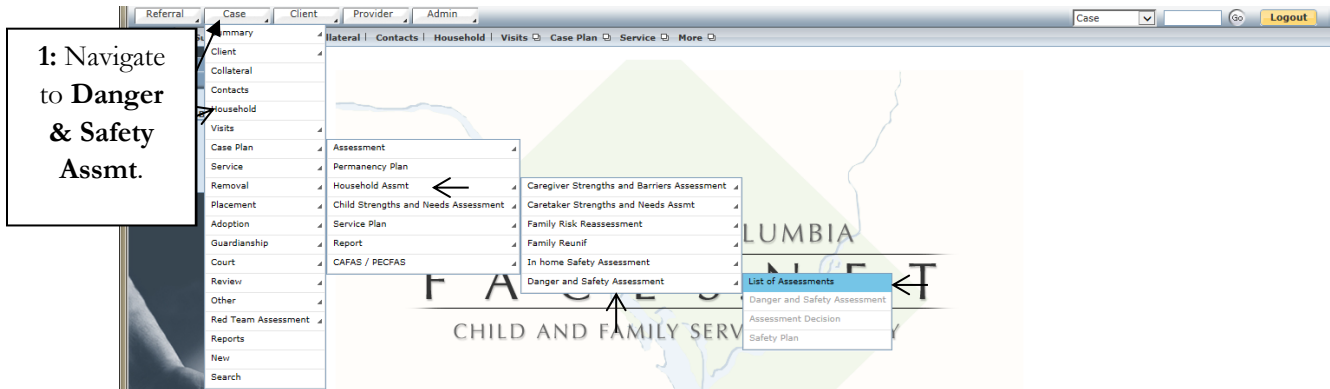


Figure 3

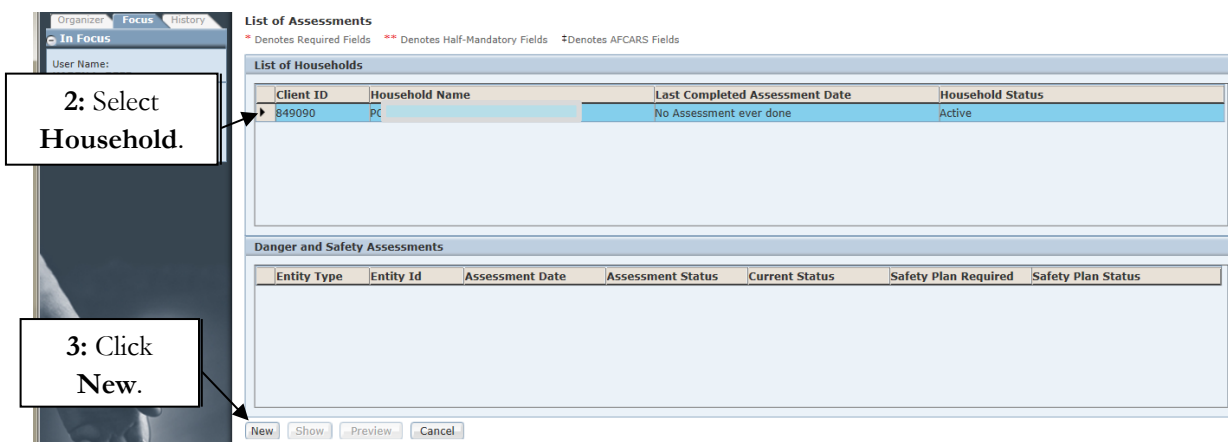


Figure 4



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.

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Step 6: Enter Description of Danger Indicators.

Step 7: Click Save.

The screenshot shows a web form titled "Danger Indicators" under the "Considerations for Safety Planning" tab. At the top, there is a date field set to "01/19/2016" and radio buttons for "Initial", "Reassessment", and "Closure". The form contains eight numbered questions, each with "Yes" and "No" radio buttons. Questions 2, 4, 5, and 6 have subcategories with checkboxes. To the right of each question is a "Select Client" dropdown menu with checkboxes for "CHRISTIA" and "FAITH DE". At the bottom, there is a text area for "Description of Danger Indicators" and "Save" and "Cancel" buttons. Four callout boxes with arrows point to specific parts of the form: "4: Enter Assessment Date." points to the date field; "5: Complete Assessment Questions and Select Client(s), as applicable." points to question 2; "6: Enter Danger Indicator Description." points to the "Select Client" dropdown for question 6; and "7: Click Save." points to the "Save" button.

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.

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Step 10: Click Save.

Assessment Date: 01/19/2016

Assessment Type: Initial Reassessment Closure

Danger Indicators **Considerations for Safety Planning**

The following areas should be assessed when workers and families are considering creating safety plans to address the dangers present in the household. Mark all that apply to the household and consider all items selected when making the safety decision.

Child Vulnerabilities
These conditions impact a child's ability to protect him/herself and can make it more difficult for a caregiver to protect a child. Mark all that apply to any child in the household.

- Child is age 0 to 6.
- Child has been exposed to multiple and/or seriously traumatic events.
- Child has diminished mental capacity (e.g., developmental delay).
- Child has diminished physical capacity (e.g., no ambulatory, limited use of limbs).
- Child has serious diagnosed medical or mental condition, including medically fragile.
- No child vulnerabilities.

Existing Household Safety
These are actions of protection, taken by at least one of the child's current caregivers or support network members, that have addressed the danger indicator selected above to some degree. Mark all that apply to the household.

- At least one caregiver articulates specific strategies that, in the past, have been successful in addressing the identified danger indicators AND has been using this strategy in the current situation.
- At least one caregiver has a stable support network that is aware of the danger indicator(s) AND is responding to those dangers by providing some protection for the child.
- Other (specify): _____
- No existing household safety actions have been taken.

Household Strengths
These are resources or conditions that increase the caregiver's likelihood or ability to create safety for the child but do not in and of themselves fully address the danger indicator(s). Mark all that apply to the household.

- Caregiver identifies and acknowledges the problem and danger indicator(s) and can suggest possible solutions.
- Caregiver has at least one supportive relationship with someone who is willing to be part of the support network.
- At least one no offending caregiver exists and is willing and able to protect the child from future harm.
- Caregiver is willing to work with the agency to address danger indicators, including allowing worker(s) access to child.
- Caregiver identifies and acknowledges the problem and danger indicator(s) and can suggest possible solutions.
- Caregiver has at least one supportive relationship with someone who is willing to be part of the support network.
- At least one no offending caregiver exists and is willing and able to protect the child from future harm.
- Caregiver is willing to work with the agency to address danger indicators, including allowing worker(s) access to child.
- Other (specify): _____
- There are no household strengths.

Household Complicating Factors
These are conditions that make it more difficult or complicated to create safety for a child; however, they do not create danger in and of themselves. Mark all that apply to the household.

- Substance use
- Mental health concerns
- Coercive behavior and control
- History of serious or extensive child abuse/neglect
- Financial stresses
- Homelessness
- Teenager present in home is exhibiting extremely oppositional behaviors
- Current or history of incarceration/criminal activity
- Other (specify): _____
- There are no household complicating factors.

Description of Safety Planning Considerations
Describe the details and circumstances surrounding any of the above child vulnerabilities, existing household safety, household strengths, and household complicating factors found to be present in the household.

Save Cancel

8: Complete Considerations for Safety Planning.

9: Enter Description of Safety Planning Considerations.

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.

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Step 13: Click Save.

and Safety Assessment | List of Assessments | Danger and Safety Assessment | **Assessment Decision** | Safety Plan |

Assessment Decision
 * Denotes Required Fields ** Denotes Half-Mandatory Fields # Denotes AFCARS Fields
 For each child in the household, use the below mentioned information to reach an assessment decision for that child.
 If no danger indicators are present, indicate by selecting "Safe" for all children.
 If one or more danger indicators are present, consider items whether a safety plan could allow the individual children to remain in the home. If a safety plan would allow children to remain in the home safely, indicate by selecting "Safe with a plan" for those children. Mark the all major components that will be used in the safety plan for those children.
 If a safety plan that would allow the child to remain in the home safely cannot be created, indicate by selecting "Unsafe".
 If children cannot be assessed for any reasons, indicate by selecting "Unable to Assess".

Assessment Decision

Safe. No danger indicators are present for the child; the child is safe.

Safe with a plan. One or more danger indicators are present; however, the child can safely remain in the home with the use of a safety plan. Create a safety plan with the family.
 List major components used in the safety plan for the child. These are areas to consider using in the plan. One may be sufficient, or multiple components can be used in combination with each other.

- Use of family, neighbors, or other individuals in the community.
- Have the non offending caregiver take action to protect the child from the alleged maltreater.
- Have the alleged maltreater leave the home, either voluntarily or in response to legal action.
- Have the non offending caregiver move to a safe environment with the child.
- Legal action planned or initiated; child remains in the home.
- Use of Collaborative or community agencies to support the caregiver in carrying out the safety plan.
- Other (specify): _____

Describe how the safety plan (and associated action steps the caregivers and support network will take) will address the danger indicators.

Training

Unsafe
 One or more danger indicators are present and cannot be controlled through a safety plan for the child. If one child is found unsafe, strongly consider a safety plan for any other children in the household who remain in the home.

Child removed is being moved to:

- Kinship Placement
- CFSA foster care placement
- Private agency foster care placement

Unable to complete Assessment

Unable to assess

- Whereabouts Unknown
- Out of Jurisdiction
- Abscondence
- Incarceration
- Emancipation
- Child Fatality

Save Approval Cancel

11: Click Assessment Decision.

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

13: Click Save.

14: Click Approval.

Figure 7

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

Step 15: Select **Request**.

Step 16: Click **OK**.

Requesting Worker	Request Date	Approving/Denying Worker	Approve/Deny Date
	Tuesday, January 19, 2016		

Requesting Worker: Requesting Date: Tuesday, January 19, 2016

Approving Worker: Approving Date:

Request Deny Approve Send Back Reason:

Comments:

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.

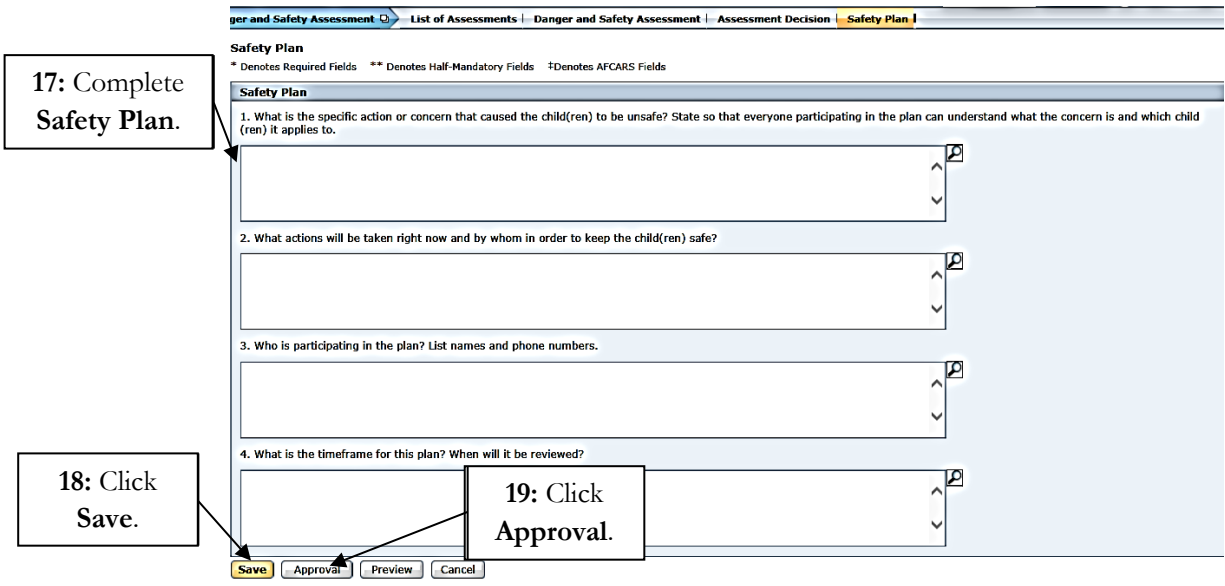


Figure 9

Step 20: Click Request.

Step 21: Click Ok.

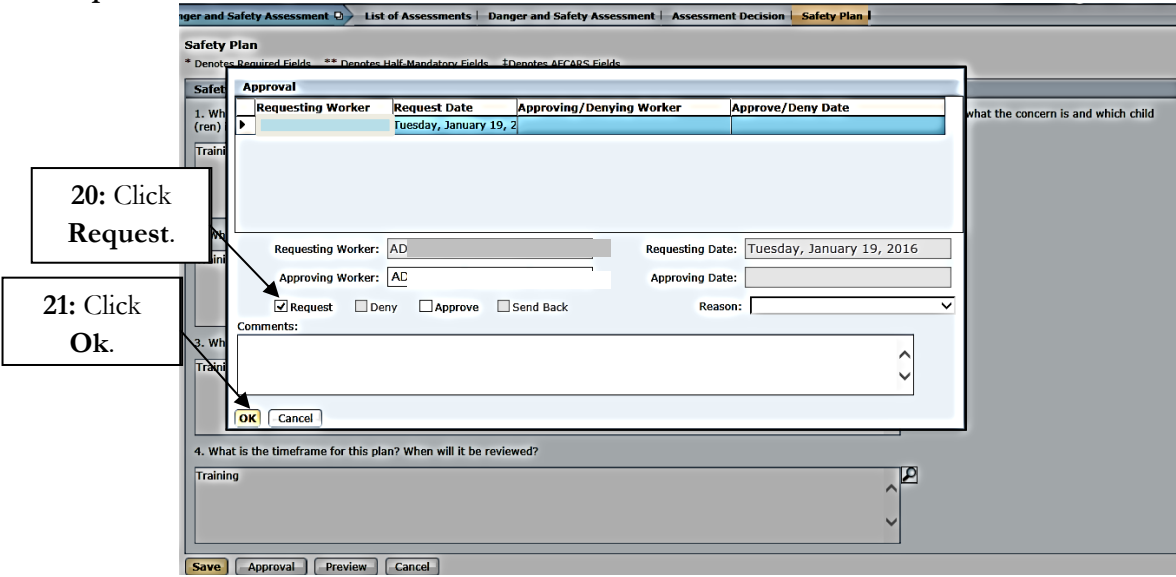


Figure 10

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

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File Edit View Window Help

Home Tools DangerAndSafetyPl... x

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**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES AGENCY**

SAFETY PLAN

1. What is the specific action or concern that caused the child(ren) to be unsafe? State so that everyone participating in the plan can understand what the concern is and which child(ren) it applies to.
Training

2. What actions will be taken right now and by whom in order to keep the child(ren) safe?
Training

3. Who is participating in the plan? List names and phone numbers.
Training

4. What is the timeframe for this plan? When will it be reviewed?
Training

(Primary Caretaker) _____ Date _____

(Social Worker) _____ Date _____

(Secondary Caretaker) _____ Date _____

(Supervisor) _____ Date _____

DRAFT

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.