

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 7: In-Home Services	Effective Date: September 1, 2019
	Section 1: Child at Imminent Risk of Removal	Version: 5

STATEMENTS OF PURPOSE

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will make an initial determination as to whether an individual child is at [imminent risk](#) of removal and therefore a candidate for placement in out-of-home care. DCS will re-determine [imminent risk](#) of removal every 180 days. A child is at [imminent risk](#) of removal when a substantiation of abuse or neglect is made by DCS, as documented by an approved substantiated [Assessment of Alleged Child Abuse or Neglect \(311\) \(SF113\)](#), an Informal Adjustment (IA), or In-Home Child in Need of Services (CHINS) case is opened, and reasonable efforts are made to prevent the child's removal from his or her home.

Code References

1. [IC 31-26-5-1: Child at imminent risk of placement](#)
2. [42 USC 672 \(j\)\(2\): Administrative costs associated with otherwise eligible children not in licensed foster care settings](#)
3. [42 USC 5106a: Grants for programs and projects](#)

PROCEDURE

The Family Case Manager (FCM) will:

1. Complete the [In-Home Risk and Safety Reassessment](#) within 45 days of the Disposition Hearing or during the development of the [Program of Informal Adjustment](#) to make an initial determination and at least every 180 days thereafter to make a re-determination regarding a child being at [imminent risk](#) of removal. See Policy [7.11 In-Home Risk and Safety Reassessment](#) for additional information.

Note: A determination of [imminent risk](#) will be completed on every child with an open case type of IA or In-Home CHINS;

2. Document the initial determination of [imminent risk](#) of removal within 72 hours in the following documents (see [Candidacy: Imminent Risk of Removal Fact Sheet](#) and [Related Information](#) for further guidance):
 - a. [Program of Informal Adjustment](#) for IA Cases. See policy [5.9 Informal Adjustment](#) for additional information, and
 - b. [Case Plan \(SF2956\)](#) for In-Home CHINS Cases. See policy [5.8 Developing the Case Plan](#) for additional information; and
3. Make a redetermination of [imminent risk](#) of removal within 72 hours in the following documents (see [Candidacy: Imminent Risk of Removal Fact Sheet](#) and [Related Information](#) for further guidance):
 - a. [Progress Report on the Program of Informal Adjustment \(S54336\)](#) for IA Cases. See policy [5.9 Informal Adjustment](#) for additional information; and

- b. [Case Plan \(SF2956\)](#) for In-Home CHINS Cases. See policy [5.8 Developing the Case Plan](#) for additional information; and
4. Enter any changes in placement or involvement status in the case management system within 72 hours.

The FCM Supervisor will:

1. Ensure an [imminent risk](#) determination is made within 45 days of the Disposition Hearing or during the development of the [Program of Informal Adjustment](#) to make an initial determination and at least every 180 days thereafter through appropriate completion of the [In-Home Risk and Safety Reassessment](#);
2. Ensure an [imminent risk](#) choice is appropriately documented in the following documents:
 - a. [Program of Informal Adjustment](#) and [Progress Report on Program of Informal Adjustment \(SF54336\)](#) for IA Cases, and
 - b. [Case Plan \(SF2956\)](#) for In-Home CHINS Cases; and
3. Ensure involvement status, placements, and documentation specific to [imminent risk](#) are entered in the case management system within 72 hours and approved timely.

PRACTICE GUIDANCE

Definition of Imminent Risk

DCS defines a child at imminent risk of removal as a child less than 18 years of age who reasonably may be expected to face out-of-home placement in the near future as a result of at least one (1) of the following:

1. Dependency, abuse, or neglect;
2. Emotional disturbance;
3. Family conflict so extensive that reasonable control of the child is not exercised; or
4. Delinquency adjudication.

FORMS AND TOOLS

1. [Assessment of Alleged Child Abuse or Neglect \(311\) \(SF113\)](#) – Available in the case management system
2. [Initial Family Risk Assessment](#) – Available in the case management system
3. [In-Home Risk and Safety Reassessment](#) – Available in the case management system
4. [Program of Informal Adjustment](#)
5. [Progress Report on Program of Informal Adjustment \(SF 54336\)](#)
6. [Case Plan \(SF2956\)](#) – Available in the case management system
7. [IN Guidebook](#)
8. [Family Functional Assessment \(FFA\) Field Guide](#) – Available on the Indiana Practice Model SharePoint
9. [Candidacy: Imminent Risk of Removal Fact Sheet](#)

RELATED INFORMATION

Imminent Risk of Removal Determination Criteria

The following are examples of criteria, based on federal guidance, for a child who is at [imminent risk](#) of removal and therefore a candidate for out-of-home placement:

1. Substantiated assessment of abuse or neglect;
2. Open IA or In-Home CHINS; and
3. Child and/or family will receive or is currently receiving services to prevent the need for removal while the child is living in his or her home.

The following are examples of a child who is not considered at [imminent risk](#) of removal:

1. A child in out-of-home care; and
2. A child on a Trial Home Visit (THV) for the initial three (3) months, and/or a child for whom an extension of the THV has been granted by the court.

Risk Reassessment

The Risk Reassessment is a part of the [In-Home Risk and Safety Reassessment](#) and is used by the FCM throughout the life of the child welfare case to determine the presence of risk factors that indicate the likelihood of future child maltreatment. The Risk Reassessment also assists the FCM in evaluating whether risk levels have decreased, remained the same, or have increased since the completion of the [Initial Family Risk Assessment](#). In addition to the Risk Reassessment, the FCM should reference the [Family Functional Assessment \(FFA\) Field Guide](#) when working with self-identified Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, and Questioning (LGBTQ) youth. Risk assessment questions that may be helpful in determining the risk factors for LGBTQ youth can be found in the [FFA Field Guide](#).