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|  | INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY | |
| | Chapter 7: In-Home Services | Effective Date: July 1, 2014 |
| | Section 1: Child at Imminent Risk of Removal | Version: 4 |

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| STATEMENTS OF PURPOSE |
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The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will make an initial determination as to whether an individual child is at [imminent risk](#) of placement and therefore a candidate for out-of-home care. DCS will redetermine [imminent risk](#) every 180 days.

DCS defines a child at [imminent risk](#) of placement 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 or mental disturbance;
3. Family conflict so extensive that reasonable control of the child is not exercised; or
4. Delinquency adjudication.

Code References

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

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| PROCEDURE |
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The Family Case Manager (FCM) will:

1. Make an initial determination that a child is at [imminent risk](#) for removal with a substantiation of abuse or neglect by DCS as documented by an approved substantiated [Assessment of Alleged Child Abuse or Neglect \(SF113\)](#).

Child in Need of Services (CHINS) Cases:

- a. Complete the [In-Home Risk and Safety Reassessment](#) in the case management system; and
- b. Document via the [Case Plan \(SF2956\)](#) in the case management system on the case identification screen that:
 - i. The child is at [imminent risk](#) of removal from the home environment and absent effective preservation services, DCS will petition the court to place the child in out-of-home care;
 - ii. The child is not at [imminent risk](#) of removal from the home environment; or
 - iii. The child is no longer at [imminent risk](#) of removal from the home environment due to the success of preservation services.

Informal Adjustment (IA) Cases:

Initial determination of [imminent risk](#) for removal should be documented on the IA form in QUEST and again, on the IA history screen in the case management system. The FCM will document that:

- a. The child is at [imminent risk](#) of removal from the home environment and absent effective preservation services, DCS will petition the court to place the child in out-of-home care;
 - b. The child is not at [imminent risk](#) of removal from the home environment; or
 - c. The child is no longer at [imminent risk](#) of removal from the home environment due to the success of preservation services.
2. Make a redetermination of [imminent risk](#) of removal. The redetermination will be completed on every child with an open case type of IA or In-Home CHINS within six (6) months of the initial determination. Redeterminations will be conducted as follows:

CHINS Cases:

- a. Complete the [In-Home Risk and Safety Reassessment](#) in the case management system;
- b. Document via the [Case Plan \(SF2956\)](#) in the case management system on the case identification screen that:
 - i. The child is at [imminent risk](#) of removal from the home environment and absent effective preservation services, DCS will petition the court to place the child in out-of-home care;
 - ii. The child is not at [imminent risk](#) of removal from the home environment; or
 - iii. The child is no longer at [imminent risk](#) of removal from the home environment due to the success of preservation services.

IA Cases:

Redetermination of [imminent risk](#) of removal should be documented on the Progress on IA (formally the 5-month report) via the IA history screen. The FCM will document that:

- a. The child is at [imminent risk](#) of removal from the home environment and absent effective preservation services, DCS will petition the court to place the child in out-of-home care;
- b. The child is not at [imminent risk](#) of removal from the home environment; or
- c. The child is no longer at [imminent risk](#) of removal from the home environment due to the success of preservation services.

PRACTICE GUIDANCE

Imminent Risk

Imminent Risk is the immediate threat of injury or harm to a child when no interventions have occurred to protect the child.

FORMS AND TOOLS

1. [Assessment of Alleged Child Abuse or Neglect \(SF113\)](#) – 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. [Preliminary Inquiry](#)
7. [Case Plan \(SF2956\)](#) – Available in the case management system
8. [IN Guidebook](#)
9. [Family Functional Assessment \(FFA\) Field Guide](#) – Available on the Indiana Practice Model SharePoint

RELATED INFORMATION

Outlining the population

A candidate for out-of-home placement/child at imminent risk for removal includes:

1. A child residing in his or her own home;
2. A child on the run from his or her home or privately-paid facility;
3. A child placed with a non-custodial parent who has NOT been removed from his or her home via a court order; and
4. A child who is homeless.

A child at imminent risk for removal does not include:

1. A child in out-of-home care;
2. A child placed in a licensed foster home or unlicensed relative home; and
3. A child on a Trial Home Visit (THV) for the initial six (6) months, and/or a child for whom an extension of the trial home visit 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](#).

Note: Risk Reassessments are completed for the biological or family of origin unless Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) is finalized. If TPR is finalized, Risk Reassessments are not required.