

	<b>INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY</b>	
	<b>Chapter 7:</b> In-Home Services	<b>Effective Date:</b> October 1, 2019
	<b>Section 11:</b> In-Home Risk and Safety Reassessment	<b>Version:</b> 3

<b>STATEMENTS OF PURPOSE</b>
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The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will conduct the [In-Home Risk and Safety Reassessment](#) on all open cases where all children remained in the home or where the children have been returned home to evaluate a family’s progress toward case plan goals.

The [In-Home Risk and Safety Reassessment](#) will first be conducted within 45 days of the Disposition Hearing and at least every 180 days thereafter on all open permanency cases where family preservation services are provided. If there is a change in circumstances or new information is gained about the family, which would affect the child’s safety and/or risk, the [In-Home Risk and Safety Reassessment](#) should be completed or during case junctures.

During a Child and Family Team (CFT) Meeting, DCS will discuss the results of the [In-Home Risk and Safety Reassessment](#) with the CFT to assist in developing a plan to address the safety threats, identify protective factors, and reduce the risk level by thoroughly identifying and considering the family’s strengths, needs, and informal supports.

Code References

N/A

<b>PROCEDURE</b>
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The Family Case Manager (FCM) will:

1. Answer all questions on the [In-Home Risk and Safety Reassessment](#);
2. Determine if any safety threats exist;
3. Document which protective factors mitigate the safety threats;
4. Determine the risk level; and
5. Discuss the results of the [In-Home Risk and Safety Reassessment](#) with the CFT to develop a plan to assist in the identification, utilization, and development of the family’s strengths, informal supports, and services to address needs.

The FCM Supervisor will:

1. Continually monitor, coach, and mentor the FCM on the use of the [In-Home Risk and Safety Reassessment](#) during regular case staffing; and
2. Ensure the [In-Home Risk and Safety Reassessment](#) is properly documented in the case management system.

**Note:** If no safety threats exist, consider recommending case closure with supervisory approval.

## PRACTICE GUIDANCE

### **In-Home Risk and Safety Reassessment**

Best practice suggests each permanency case should be reviewed in conjunction with judicial review hearings (at least every 180 days) to reassess safety and progress toward objectives and long-term goals, including the elimination of safety threats and reduction of risk. The [In-Home Risk and Safety Reassessment](#) may be completed earlier if there have been significant changes that affect safety and/or risk.

### **Safety Reassessment**

A Safety Reassessment is a part of the [In-Home Risk and Safety Reassessment](#) and it should be used for open cases in which a child is in the home and new information or circumstances require that the safety of the child be assessed. The Safety Reassessment should be used to determine whether the child may remain in the home, with or without protective interventions, and to identify the specific interventions that should be initiated or maintained. If there are no safety threats, consider recommending case closure with supervisory approval. If any safety threats exist, the case must remain open until safety threats are resolved.

### **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 permanency case to determine the presence of risk factors that indicate the likelihood of future child maltreatment. The Risk Reassessment also assists FCMs 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, FCMs 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 may be found in the [FFA Field Guide](#).

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

The Risk Reassessment determines whether the case should remain open or be closed. For cases that will remain open, the Reassessment includes updating the treatment plan based on current needs and strengths.

## FORMS AND TOOLS

1. [In-Home Risk and Safety Reassessment](#) – Available in the case management system
2. [IN Guidebook](#)
3. [Family Functional Assessment \(FFA\) Field Guide](#) – Available on the Indiana Practice Model SharePoint
4. [Initial Family Risk Assessment](#) – Available in the case management system

## RELATED INFORMATION

### **Case Juncture**

A case juncture is defined as a new awareness of significant information regarding the child or family's strengths or needs, which may impact the Case Plan and/or Safety Plan. Case

junctures may include, but are not limited to, transition planning and/or positive or negative changes in:

1. Placement
2. Formal and informal supports
3. Family involvement
4. Visitation
5. Behavior
6. Diagnosis (mental or physical)
7. Sobriety
8. Skills acquisition; or
9. Education

### **Case Staffing**

Case staffing is a systemic and frequent review of all case information with safety, stability, permanency, and well-being as driving forces for case activities.

### **Determining Overall Risk Level**

Research has demonstrated that for the Risk Reassessment, a single index best categorizes risk for future maltreatment. Unlike the [Initial Family Risk Assessment](#) that contains separate indices for risk of neglect and risk of abuse, the Risk Reassessment is comprised of a single index.

<b>Risk-Based Case Open/Close Guide</b>	
<b>Risk Level</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
Low	Close, if there are no unresolved safety threats
Moderate	Close, if there are no unresolved safety threats
High	Case remains open
Very High	Case remains open

### **Safety vs. Risk Assessment**

It is important to keep in mind the difference between safety and risk when completing the [In-Home Risk and Safety Reassessment](#). The Safety Assessment assesses the child's present danger and the interventions currently needed to protect the child. In contrast, the Risk Assessment looks at the likelihood of future maltreatment.