

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

POLICY GUIDE 2019.03

**PROCEDURES 300 APPENDIX G
and
PROCEDURES 315, APPENDIX A**

CHILD ENDANGERMENT RISK ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL

DATE: February 26, 2019
TO: DCFS and POS Staff
FROM: Debra Dyer-Webster, Interim Director
EFFECTIVE: Immediately

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy Guide is to inform Child Protection and Child Welfare staff of changes to **Procedures 300, Appendix G Child Endangerment Risk Assessment Protocol (CERAP)** and **Procedures 315, Appendix A Child Endangerment Risk Assessment Protocol (CERAP)** and the **CFS 1441 CERAP Safety Determination Form, 1441-A Safety Plan, CFS 1441-D Safety Plan Rights and Responsibilities for Parents and Guardians, CFS 1441-E Safety Plan Rights and Responsibilities for Responsible Adult Caregivers and Safety Plan Participants** and the **CFS 1441-F Safety Plan Responsibilities for Investigators and Caseworkers**. The **CFS 1441** will be revised in SACWIS so the hard copy and corresponding electronic version matches each other. These changes, in part, are to implement court ordered requirements into the policy and practice of child safety. The changes in this policy guide will be included in a comprehensive revision of **Procedures 300, Appendix G** and **Procedures 315, Appendix A** in the near future.

II. PRIMARY USERS

The primary users of this Policy Guide are Child Protection Specialists/Supervisors and DCFS/POS Child Welfare Specialists/Supervisors.

III. BACKGROUND

The CERAP safety assessment is a life-of-the-case protocol designed to provide workers with a mechanism for quickly assessing the potential for moderate to severe harm in the immediate or near future and for taking quick action to protect children. The safety assessment is conducted at specified milestones, including every 5 working days following the determination that a child is **unsafe** and a safety plan has been implemented.



IV. INSTRUCTIONS

Changes in **Procedures 300, Appendix G** and **Procedures 315, Appendix A (CERAP)** include, but are not limited to:

- Added new language to **Milestone #4-**
 - **Current Language** – “At the conclusion of the formal investigation, unless temporary custody is granted or there is an open intact case or assigned caseworker. The safety of all children in the home, including alleged victims and non-involved children, must be assessed.”
 - **New Language** – “At the conclusion of an investigation, unless a service case is opened. All children in the home, alleged victims and non-involved children must be included in the assessment. When the initial assessment is marked safe and no more the 30 days have lapsed since it was completed, a closing assessment is not needed unless otherwise directed to do so by a supervisor.”
- Added new language to **Safety Threat #14-**
 - **Current Language-** “A caregiver, paramour or member of the household whose alleged or observed mental/physical illness or developmental disability may seriously impair or affect his/her ability to provide care for a child.”
 - **New Language-** “A caregiver, paramour or member of the household whose observed or professionally diagnosed or documented mental/physical illness or developmental disability seriously impairs his or her ability to meet the immediate needs of the child.”

Changes in the forms listed below include, but are not limited to:

- **CFS 1441 (amended in SACWIS also)**
Includes the revised Milestone #4 and Safety Threat #14, as noted above.
- **CFS 1441-A (amended in SACWIS also)**
New language in Section III states that a safety plan may be developed only when based on the reasonably available information/evidence that DCFS possesses, that there is an immediate and unmitigated safety threat that would cause moderate to severe harm to a child unless protective custody was taken.

New language states that Safety Plans should not include a requirement of individual or family therapy or outpatient/inpatient mental health treatment.

New language states that a new safety assessment and safety plan is required every 5 working days and that a copy signed by all parties shall be distributed to the parties upon verbal supervisory approval.

In the Signature section, add new language for an attestation by the assigned Specialist that a signed copy of the safety plan has been added to the hard copy file and a copy provided to all parties.

- **CFS 1441-D**
New language establishes that a parent/guardian has the right to receive a copy of all signed safety plans.
- **CFS 1441-E**
New language establishes that adult caregivers and safety plan participants have the right to identify and recommend individuals who may provide care for their child and/or participate as a safety plan monitor/supervisor.
- **CFS 1441-F**
New language states that a new safety assessment and safety plan must be performed and approved by the supervisor every 5 working days.

New language states that all parties must receive a signed copy of each written safety plan and that a hard copy of the signed plan is retained in the investigative file.

V. NEW/REVISED FORMS

CFS 1441, CERAP Safety Determination form (Rev 2/2019)

CFS 1441-A, Safety Plan Form (Rev 2/2019)

CFS 1441-D, Safety Plan Rights & Responsibilities for Parents and Guardians (Rev 2/2019)

CFS 1441-E, Safety Plan Rights & Responsibilities for Responsible Adult Caregiver & Safety Plan Participants (Rev 2/2019)

CFS 1441-F, Safety Plan Responsibilities for Child Protection Specialists and Caseworkers (Rev 2/2019)

All previous versions of these forms are now obsolete. Forms are available on the DCFS website, Template (T) drive, and can be ordered in the usual manner.

VI. QUESTIONS

Questions about this policy guide should be directed to the Office of Child and Family Policy at 217-524-1983 or via Outlook to DCFS.Policy@Illinois.gov.

VII. FILING INSTRUCTIONS

This Policy Guide is to be filed immediately following **Procedures 300, Appendix G and Procedures 315, Appendix A, Child Endangerment Risk Assessment Protocol.**

This page intentionally left blank.