

Instructions for Negative Family Conditions

Purpose:

The purpose of this exercise is to provide a practice opportunity that allows participants to practice analyzing information using the danger threshold criteria to determine if a negative family condition can be qualified using the danger threshold criteria. This exercise is not intended to identify danger threats. Groups should focus on the analysis of information to identify how specific pieces of information can be analyzed using the danger threshold criteria as guidance.

Instructions:

1. Working within your small groups, each participant is to review the negative family conditions scenarios.
2. When reviewing the scenario, each participant should be considering:
 - a. Information that supports a family condition;
 - b. Determination if the family condition is a negative family condition that can be qualified using the safety threshold criteria;
 - c. Observable: What is the observable negative family condition?
 - d. Severity: What is the potential for severe harm to the child(ren)?
 - e. Imminence: What is the anticipated timeframe for when the negative family condition occurs?
3. Following each participant's review of the worksheet, the group will complete the worksheet for the large group report out. Groups should be considering if there is more information that is needed to identify if the condition is observable, severe, and the imminence of the negative family condition.
4. If there is not enough information, consider the justification of why the information is not sufficient to draw a conclusion regarding the threshold criteria.
5. The first one has been completed for you as an example.

<p>1. A parent who continually makes impulsive decisions and plans which leave the children, ages 4 and 5, in precarious situations such as unsupervised or supervised by an unreliable person. The children have been found wandering the street on several occasions during the night by neighbors.</p>	<p>Observable: <i>Children have been observed wandering streets by neighbors.</i></p> <p>Severity: <i>Children are young, and could be abducted, wander off, get hit by a car.</i></p> <p>Imminence: <i>Indication that this is not an isolated occurrence, but rather something that occurs frequently-weekly/monthly.</i></p>
<p>2. Child sustained a cigarette burn as a result of the parent intentionally burning the child to teach them a lesson about stealing. The child, age 12, had been caught stealing cigarettes from the local store. The mother often deploys bizarre forms of punishment for actions the children exhibit. One child was made to walk to school in his underwear for losing his coat and the other child was forced to wear his soiled pajamas for two days as punishment for wetting the bed.</p>	<p>Observable: <i>Burn to child, children's report of actions by parent.</i></p> <p>Severity: <i>Burn to child, as well as overall concerns regarding neglect and physical abuse that could result in more severe harm.</i></p> <p>Imminence: <i>Indication that this is the primary form of "discipline" by parent. Employs techniques with all children, not isolated incidents.</i></p>
<p>3. Domestic abuse occurs in which a child is also assaulted.</p>	<p>Observable: <i>What is meant by assaulted, not clear the incident or incidents. Unclear regarding the events.</i></p> <p>Severity: <i>No indication of how old child was, what is meant by assault.</i></p> <p>Imminence: <i>Not clear on what time frame, frequency of occurrences.</i></p>
<p>4. The family has a history of homelessness due to non-payment of rent. The family has struggled financially in the past and the children have often had to stay with friends for long periods of time. The family has a new residence that was reported to be trashed. The home while cluttered due to the family recently moving into the home, has easily accessible open windows, balconies in upper stories. The children's room, ages 12 and 13, are both clean and age appropriate.</p>	<p>Observable: <i>Home condition was observable, but not to the degree that it justifies that the house is of a condition that is negative. While the family does have a pattern of instability, no clear conditions that are observable for child safety.</i></p> <p>Severity: <i>No indications or information that supports that the children have been harmed or that they could be harmed by the negative family condition.</i></p> <p>Imminence: <i>Not enough information to identify if this is a chronic negative family condition for the family or a circumstance of having limited financial resources.</i></p>
<p>5. Young teenage mother who struggles with how to care for her infant daughter.</p>	<p>Observable: <i>Not clear based upon the information.</i></p> <p>Severity: <i>No age range for child, however if parent is not feeding the child, that could result in severe harm.</i></p> <p>Imminence: <i>Not clear on the timeframe or if this is a pervasive condition within the family.</i></p>

<p>6. The father on occasion has been inconsistent in providing insulin for his daughter's diabetes.</p>	<p>Observable: <i>Inconsistent medication provision, however not enough information to determine the specifics of what this means.</i></p> <p>Severity: <i>Child with medical needs that could result in death if not treated.</i></p> <p>Imminence: <i>Need more information as to the frequency and implications for actions by the father.</i></p>
<p>7. The parents are fearful of government agencies. They have primarily lived off the grid for a number of years. The children are homeschooled and have little contact with family or other friends. The parents fear that due to the DCF call to the home that there will be criminal or civil charges filed and they want to avoid these complications.</p>	<p>Observable: <i>Family is isolated, fearful in their actions and responses to government.</i></p> <p>Severity: <i>Need more information, as to how the parents living off the grid and children being isolated is a negative family condition.</i></p> <p>Imminence: <i>Need more information as to the history of the family, their overall family functioning and what the specific negative family condition would be for the family.</i></p>
<p>8. The father was hospitalized for mental health reasons a number of years ago. He was prescribed medication, however he has never taken it and does not want to take medications. He does not believe in formal mental health treatment and relies upon his relationship with his wife and children to keep him mentally stable.</p>	<p>Observable: <i>Father was hospitalized, does not take medications, and does not receive formal services. No indication of how his mental health is affecting the family.</i></p> <p>Severity: <i>Need more information as to how the father's mental health may impact the safety of the children.</i></p> <p>Imminence: <i>Unclear how his mental health manifests, frequency and outcome. Need more information.</i></p>
<p>9. Mom has been an alcoholic for the past 5 years. The father of the children is deceased. The children, ages 7 and 9, have missed a significant amount of school, are often dirty and unkempt, and the mother has lost her job due to not being able to make it to work due to being drunk or sick from withdrawal from alcohol. The children are often left at the residence with mom, while she is passed out or in her room sick.</p>	<p>Observable: <i>Children's report, observation of the mother. Mother admitted use to alcohol.</i></p> <p>Severity: <i>Lack of care for the children could result in them having negative effects, such as unhealthily household conditions, lack of food and supervision.</i></p> <p>Imminence: <i>Pattern of behavior that appears to be declining over the course, resulting in impacts to overall family and adult functioning.</i></p>
<p>10. Both parents are developmentally delayed. They both are involved in services with local agencies to provide for vocational training. They are new parents, to a small infant. The parent's do well with the infant, however there is concerns regarding their cognitive abilities.</p>	<p>Observable: <i>Parents observable via their actions, their involvement with services.</i></p> <p>Severity: <i>Need more information as to how their developmental delays affect the care and safety of the child.</i></p> <p>Imminence: <i>Developmentally they will be delayed indefinitely; therefore if they were not able to meet the child's needs, this would be pervasive.</i></p>