

Responsible Person and Safety Planning

What is a Safety Plan?

A safety plan is a specific and concrete strategy for controlling threats of serious harm to a child (ren) or supplementing parents' protective capacities. A safety plan is implemented IMMEDIATELY when parents' protective capacities are not sufficient to manage immediate safety threats for at least one child.

There are three types of safety plans:

- **Voluntary In-Home**
This is implemented on the JFS 01409 CAPMIS Safety Plan.
- **Voluntary Out-Of-Home**
This is implemented on the JFS 01409 CAPMIS Safety Plan.
- **Legally Authorized Out-Of-Home**
The child is legally removed from the home and temporary custody is given to the PCSA or relative/kin. The JFS 01409 Safety Plan is not required to be completed. The court complaint and motions will provide the justification of how this safety response will immediately protect the child.

When is a Safety Plan implemented?

A safety plan is required to be implemented when the protective capacities of the parents/custodians cannot control current active safety threats. A safety plan is developed and implemented with the individual(s) who holds legal custody of the child.

*** A safety plan would not be implemented when one parent's/custodian's protective capacities are sufficient to remove or control the active safety threat to the vulnerable child.**

Who is a Responsible Person in a safety plan?

- A responsible person is an individual who will control or remove an identified active safety threat by enhancing the deficiencies in the parent's protective capacities. This **should not** be the parent. ***If the parent is capable of maintaining the child's safety then a safety plan does not need to be implemented.***
- A responsible person is an outside resource that is utilized to assist a family in maintaining child safety.
- A responsible person is utilized when the parent(s) is unable to control or remove an active safety threat.
- A responsible person is an individual who will "control or remove" the active safety threat.

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When identifying a responsible person for a successful safety plan the following should be determined:

- The parent's/custodian's desire to have the individual involved with their case/family.
- The individual's willingness and ability to participate in the safety plan.
- Is the individual **capable** of enforcing the safety plan activities to control/remove the safety threat?
- Does the individual have the capacity to put child's safety and protection over the needs of the parent(s) if necessary? (For example, not allow a parent to visit or live in the home when they are using drugs or their mental health has decompensated).
- The parent's/custodian's previous relationship with the individual. Have past experiences negatively influenced the individual's willingness to provide support to the family? (For example, parents have a history of abusing drugs and relatives are fed up with the behavior.)
- The individual's ability to meet the child's needs in assuring safety.
- The frequency and duration the individual is willing to be involved in the safety plan.
- The individual's history of child abuse or neglect?
- The individual's history of arrests or criminal activity and if it impacts the safety of the child or ability of the individual to provide for the care of the child?
- Is the individual supportive of the parent(s) and child?