



Clark County Family Services

Stacie Dastrup, Director
Wonswayla Mackey, Deputy Director
Lisa Martinez, Deputy Director
Pamela Kowalski, Deputy Director
Robynn Bell, Deputy Director

Clark County Department of Family Services Policy

SUBJECT:

Safety Plan Determination

Effective Date	Amendment Number	Amendment Effective Date
August 20, 2026	N/A	N/A

SCOPE:

Determining the appropriate type of Safety Plan for children in the care of Clark County Family Services.

SPECIFIC LEGAL and OTHER REFERENCES:

Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) ([PL 150-89](#))

Case Transfer – NIA to Permanency Policy and Procedures

Confirming Safe Environments – Child Placement Assessment Policy and Procedures

Conditions for Return Policy and Procedures

Family Court Process Policy and Procedures

Kinship Licensing Policy and Procedures

[NAC 432B](#)

Nevada Initial Assessment Policy and Procedures

[NRS 432B](#)

[NV DCFS Policy 0508 Nevada Initial Assessment](#)

Protective Capacity Family Assessment Policy and Procedures

Protective Capacity Progress Assessment Policy and Procedures

Safety Assessment Policy and Procedures

Visitation- Caregivers, Siblings and Relatives-Kin Policy and Procedures

Warrants Policy and Procedures

PROGRAMS IMPACTED:

At Risk Youth Support

Nevada Initial Assessment

Permanency

Placement

SUMMARY OF CHANGES:

Supersedes Safety Plan Determination sections from the Nevada Initial Assessment Policy and Procedures.

DEFINITIONS:

For a list of acronyms and a glossary of terms used throughout CCFS refer to Acronyms and Glossary located on DFSNet.

The following definition is specific to this Policy and Procedures (P&P).

Caregiver:

“Caregiver” is used throughout this Policy and Procedures to refer to any of the following individuals who are in a caregiving role:

1. Biological parent
2. Legal Parent

3. Legal Guardian
4. Non-custodial parent with occasional or routine contact with a child
5. Parent substitute
6. Stepparent
7. Extended family member who provides care to the child
8. Unrelated person living in the same household as the child
9. Paramour/companion of parent

Relative:

“Relative” is used throughout this Policy and Procedures to refer to relatives who fall within the fifth (5th) degree of consanguinity to the child:

1. Grandparents
2. Great-grandparents
3. Aunts and Uncles, including spouses of aunts and uncles
4. Adult siblings
5. Nephews and nieces
6. First cousins
7. Children of first cousins

Fictive Kin:

“Fictive Kin” is used throughout this Policy and Procedures to refer to individuals that are unrelated by either birth or marriage, who have an emotionally significant relationship with another individual that take on the characteristics of a family relationship, some examples of fictive kin include:

1. Parents or relatives of half (½) siblings
2. Family members of relatives
3. Family friends
4. Neighbors
5. School teachers
6. Religious clergy

The key to determining if one qualifies as fictive kin is in understanding the strength of the relationship with the child and family in question and ensuring that it involves an emotional attachment that is healthy and supportive.

FORMS, PUBLICATIONS, AND INSTRUCTIONAL DOCUMENTS:

Background Check Acceptable Forms of Identification (FPI Library)

Present Danger Plan (PDP) (FPI Library)

SPD-CFR Roadmap (FPI Library)

POLICY:

- A. The result of the Safety Plan Determination (SPD) analysis is to determine whether an In-Home or Out-of-Home Safety Plan is the appropriate setting given the dynamics of the case.
 1. The SPD is completed after Impending Danger Threats (IDT's) have been identified in the Safety Assessment.
 2. The SPD must be completed or updated anytime:
 - a. The Nevada Initial Assessment (NIA) is completed.
 - i. See the Nevada Initial Assessment Policy and Procedures for more information regarding completing the NIA.
 - b. The Protective Capacity Family Assessment (PCFA) is completed.
 - i. See the Protective Capacity Family Assessment Policy and Procedures for more information regarding completing the PCFA.
 - c. The Protective Capacity Progress Assessment (PCPA) is completed.
 - i. See the Protective Capacity Progress Assessment Policy and Procedures for more information regarding completing the PCPA.
 - d. Any time a significant family event has occurred and it has been identified that an answer to the seven (7) analysis question has:

- i. Changed from a “no” to a “yes.”
 - 1) Answers that become a “yes” may indicate that it is appropriate to move forward with an in-home safety plan.
 - ii. Change from a “yes” to a “no,” or if a “yes” appears close to becoming a “no” due to a chaotic circumstance.
 - 1) Evaluate if additional resources are needed to support the family and prevent removal if the child is in the home.
- B. The following seven (7) SPD analysis questions must all be answered “yes” to determine whether an in-home safety plan could be implemented:
 - 1. Does the child’s primary caregiver have a suitable place to reside where an in-home Safety Plan can be considered?
 - 2. Is there confidence in the sustainability of the Safety Plan in the current location of the caregivers?
 - 3. Is the home environment consistent enough to allow safety services in accordance with the Safety Plan and for people participating in the Safety Plan to be in the home safely without disruption (e.g. reasonable schedules, routine, structure, general predictability of family functioning)?
 - 4. Are the primary caregivers cooperative with CPS and willing to participate in the development of the in-home Safety Plan?
 - 5. Are the primary caregivers willing to allow safety services and actions to be provided in accordance with the Safety Plan?
 - 6. Do the primary caregivers possess the necessary ability/capacity to participate in an in-home Safety Plan, and do what they must do as identified in an in-home Safety Plan?
 - 7. Are there sufficient resources within the family or community to perform the safety services necessary to manage the identified impending danger threats?
- C. The following four (4) questions must all be answered “yes” to determine whether a relative or fictive kin can be considered an appropriate placement;
 - 1. Are there Relatives/Kin available that reside in a resource home, and is the environment safe and stable to sustain placement (this includes a judgement about the community)?
 - 2. Do the Relatives/Kin possess adequate Caregiver Protective Capacity (Behavioral, Cognitive, and Emotional Characteristics) to meet or accommodate all the needs of the children?
 - a. Child needs may include:
 - i. Provocative behaviors
 - ii. Medical or special needs
 - iii. Unusual or elevated behaviors
 - iv. Emotional health concerns
 - v. Temperament
 - vi. Particularly vulnerable
 - vii. Child is a perpetrator or victim of sexual abuse
 - viii. Fearful of the home, etc.
 - 3. The Safety Plan Provider is cleared of criminal activity and CPS history after completing all necessary background checks including state and local police records, central registry, and agency records?
 - 4. Is Safety Plan with Relatives/Kin sufficient to manage Impending Dangers? Sufficiency requires a judgment that the Bio-Parents will cooperate with the Safety Plan, and the Relatives/Kin are trustworthy, reliable, committed, have available resources (including time), properly aligned with CPS and agree with the needs for placement.
- D. The two (2) questions to determine that foster placement is the most appropriate option are:
 - 1. Is the Foster Home environment safe and stable to sustain placement based on the Confirming Safe Environments Child Placement Assessment process?
 - a. Refer to Confirming Safe Environments – Child Placement Assessment Policy and Procedures for further instructions.
 - 2. Do the Foster Parents possess sufficient Caregiver Protective Capacity (Behavioral, Cognitive, and Emotional Characteristics) to meet and accommodate all the children's needs in the home?
 - a. Child needs may include:
 - i. Provocative behaviors
 - ii. Medical or special needs
 - iii. Unusual or elevated behaviors
 - iv. Emotional health concerns

- v. Temperament
- vi. Particularly Vulnerable
- vii. Child is a perpetrator or victim of sexual abuse
- viii. Fearful of the home, etc.

Stacie Dastrup, Director
Clark County Department of Family Services

June 30, 2026

Approved Date