

Why Revise Safety Planning Policies?



Over the past few years, safety resources have frequently been used by CPS to help ensure safety, permanence, and well-being for children and their families.

In response to growing concerns regarding the overuse of safety resources and especially the length of time children are remaining in them, North Carolina has reviewed and revised its policy around this practice.



Temporary Parental Safety Agreements

What are they?

How should we use them with families?



A Temporary Parental Safety Agreement is a voluntary & short-term plan between a parent and a county child welfare agency during the assessment phase of a case if a child is in immediate danger in his or her own home because of a safety threat.

voluntary

short-term



immediate
danger



Temporary Parental Safety Agreements:

Basic Goals

- Sufficient to manage safety;
- Reasonably tailored to the allegations provided in the CPS report and the child safety issues that exist within the family;
- Immediately available so that it is capable of being in operation the same day it is created; and
- A plan that includes actions and goals that are specific and measurable.



Practice Requirements



Practice Requirements regarding Safety Agreements

- Agreements must be unquestionably voluntary
- Agreements must be revocable

Court involvement must be pursued when...

- An agreement that ensures safety of the child(ren) cannot be made between the parent(s) and the county child welfare agency
- The Temporary Safety Provider recommended by the family lives in another state (unless there is a border agreement)

Lessons Learned

- Safety vs. Risk
- Engagement
- Data

NC DSS polled all 100 county child welfare agencies

Of the families served in CPS In-Home Services with children outside of the home (with a Safety Provider), how many petitions would be filed if the parents removed the children from that provider?

447

(89 counties responding)

