

NC Case Decision Summary/Initial Case Plan

Instructions for the Structured Investigative Assessment Case Decision Process

Determining whether a child is abused, neglected, or dependent requires careful assessment of all the information obtained during the investigative process. In making a case decision it is important to assess not only that maltreatment has occurred, but what are the current safety issues, and is there future risk of harm and the need for protection. The following questions should provide the structure for making a case decision:

1. Has the maltreatment occurred with frequency and/or is the maltreatment severe?
2. Are there current safety issues? Would the child be unsafe in the home where the abuse, neglect or dependency occurred?
3. Is the child at risk of future harm?
4. Is the child in need of protection?

To make a case decision to substantiate a child for abuse, neglect, and/or dependency, the answer to one or more of the above questions must be yes, and there must be documentation to support the answers included on the case decision tool. Only in unusual circumstances should a supervisor and staffing team override the structured case decision process either to substantiate or to unsubstantiate.

Note: In determining severity of maltreatment, consideration should be given to the degree of harm, level of severity, extent of injury, egregiousness, gravity and the seriousness of maltreatment.

If the decision of the Safety Assessment is Safe, and the findings of the Risk Assessment and the Family Assessment of Strengths and Needs are both Low, then the case would be unsubstantiated, unless there is an unusual circumstance that would warrant a substantiation.

Note: In cases where poverty is the sole factor of the maltreatment and services were offered and accepted by the parent/caretaker, the case decision should be to unsubstantiate, unless there are unusual circumstances that would warrant a substantiation. In cases when poverty is the sole factor of the maltreatment, and there is an ongoing history/pattern of services being offered and declined and the pattern of maltreatment continues, it would be appropriate to substantiate if the answers to the above four questions are “yes, unless there are unusual circumstances that would warrant an unsubstantiation.

Note: This form also serves as the Initial Case Plan.

STRUCTURED INVESTIGATIVE ASSESSMENT CASE DECISION PROCESS
(Factual Findings of the Investigative Assessment, Safety Assessment, Risk Assessment,
Strengths & Needs Assessment)

<p align="center">Case Decision</p> <p>Unsubstantiate: _____</p> <p>Substantiate: _____</p> <p>Date of Case Decision: _____</p>	<p>Maltreatment Substantiated:</p> <p>Physical Abuse: _____ Neglect: _____</p> <p>Emotional Abuse: _____ _____ Improper Care</p> <p>Sexual Abuse: _____ _____ Improper Supervision</p> <p>Moral Turpitude: _____ _____ Improper Discipline</p> <p>_____ Environment Injurious</p> <p>_____ Abandonment</p> <p>Dependency: _____ _____ Not providing necessary medical/remedial care</p> <p>_____ Placed in violation of the law.</p>
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Parent/Guardian/Custodian/Caretaker/Agency/ Foster Home	Relationship to Child	Perpetrator(s)
1)		Yes: _____ No: _____
2)		Yes: _____ No: _____
3)		Yes: _____ No: _____
4)		Yes: _____ No: _____

CHILDREN (Indicate if each is substantiated or unsubstantiated for maltreatment)

NAME	SUB	UNSUB	NAME	SUB	UNSUB
1)			5)		
2)			6)		
3)			7)		
4)			8)		

DISPOSITION OF CASE

Unsubstantiated: _____	Substantiated and Transferred to Placement: _____
Substantiated and Closed: _____	Other: _____
Substantiated and Transferred to CPS Case Planning & Management: _____	

Family Services Assessment: For Multiple Response Counties Only

No Need for Services/Date: _____ In Need of Services/Date: _____

Signatures of Others Present for Staffing:

Social Worker Signature: _____ Date: _____

Supervisor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

SAFETY ASSESSMENT

Current Safety Assessment Attached: Yes: _____ No: _____(If not, needs to be attached)		
Safety Outcome		
Safe: _____	Conditionally Safe: _____	Conditionally Unsafe: _____

RISK ASSESSMENT

Current Risk Assessment Attached: Yes: _____ No: _____(If not, needs to be attached)		
Neglect Score	Abuse Score	Risk Level

SUPERVISORY OVERRIDE

Document Supervisory Override: (Supervisor Use Only)

FAMILY STRENGTHS and NEEDS ASSESSMENT

SUMMARY:

The Family Strengths and Needs Assessment Summary serves as the Initial Case Plan and should detail the needs and the activities intended to prevent foster care placement of child for whom, absent effective preventive services, the plan would be removal from the home. This plan is used only when children remain in their own home and shall be in effect no longer than 30 days while the Family Services Case Plan; Part A; Service Agreement is being developed with the family.

Current Family Strengths and Needs Assessment Attached: Yes: _____ No: _____(If not, form needs to be attached)
Identify the Family Strengths:

Identify the Behavioral Needs and activities to be addressed through CPS Case Planning and Case Management or Foster care services for children in DSS custody until the Family Services Case Plan, Part A, Service Agreement is being developed.

1)

2)

3)

4)