

# The Family Functioning Assessment

---

Department policy requires that Child Protective Services immediately respond if the report indicates that a child is in present danger and there is no caregiver able to provide safety for the child. If the child is in imminent danger then the state statute requires a face to face contact 72 hours of the receipt of the report. In all other situations the statute requires a face to face contact within 14 days; however Child Protective Services will respond sooner if required.

During the Family Functioning Assessment the Child Protective Services worker will interview the child, the child's siblings if there are any, the parents or caregivers, the alleged abuser and other persons having information about the suspected maltreatment and other things that may make a child unsafe.

This information is used to determine if a child is unsafe. Child Protective Services Policy describes unsafe children as living in Impending Danger.

Generally within 30 days from the receipt of the report the worker and supervisor will conclude the Family Functioning Assessment. However, there may be times when the Family Functioning Assessment takes longer than 30 days to complete. Caregivers will be notified in writing at the conclusion of the Family Functioning Assessment concerning:

- whether or not a child was abused or neglected; and,
- whether the child is unsafe

If the child is abused or neglected, or unsafe then Ongoing Child Protective Services will be provided to the family.