

Protective Action Guide

Protective Actions secure the immediate safety of children when they are in danger. Present danger is immediate, significant, and clearly observable severe harm or threat of harm requiring an immediate protective response. ***Protective Actions are not voluntary. If parents reject the protective action, CA must take the legal action necessary in order to keep the child safe.***

Protective Actions:

- Control present danger immediately
- Are intended as short-term until sufficient information can be gathered and analyzed to determine the need for an ongoing safety plan
- May involve parents
- Do not rely or expect the parent or caregiver to provide protection
- Include suitable and reliable relatives, kin, neighbors, and family supports who will take action to keep the child safe
- Include timeframes and logistics, and details about who will do what and when

Protective Action Questions:

- What is the specific present danger being managed and controlled by the protective action?
- Who are the family's natural supports? Are they willing and able to provide protection for the child?
- Are the identified resources and supports sufficient and available to control the present danger twenty-four hours a day until the safety assessment is completed and a safety plan can be implemented?
- Can an in-home protective action be established?
- What is the role of the CA social worker?
- Does the child need a medical evaluation or immediate medical care? Why? How is this communicated to the parents? How will this be carried out?
- How will the protective action work? How will the safety of the child be monitored and how often?
- What is the determined protective action? Is the protective action explained to the family? What is their response to the protective action?

Protective Action examples include but are not limited to:

- Family resources/supports capable of carrying out protective actions
- Any source within the family that can serve to control the present danger
- Addressing concrete and immediate needs that create the present danger, e.g., housing, food, supervision
- Protective custody
- Child placed with unlicensed caregiver
- Child placed with licensed caregiver