

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
SDM[®] RISK ASSESSMENT OF ABUSE/NEGLECT
DEFINITIONS



Only one household should be assessed on a risk assessment.

The primary caregiver is the adult (typically the parent) living in the household who assumes the most child care responsibility. When two adult caregivers are present **and** the caseworker is in doubt about which one assumes the most child care responsibility, the adult legally responsible for the children involved in the incident should be selected. If this rule does not resolve the question, the legally responsible adult who is the alleged offender should be selected. **Only one primary caregiver can be identified.**

The secondary caregiver is defined as an adult living in the household who has routine child care responsibility but less responsibility than the primary caregiver.

NEGLECT

N1. Current report is for neglect

Score based on the specified allegations. Allegations include any concerns under investigation/assessment even if not identified in the original report.

- a. No: Current report is not for any type of neglect.
- b. Yes: Current report is for any type of neglect.

N2. Current report is for educational neglect

Score yes if educational neglect was alleged at any time during the assessment/investigation.

N3. Number of prior assigned reports

Count all maltreatment reports, determined or not, that were assigned for CPS family assessment or investigation for any type of abuse or neglect in which one or more adult household members were the alleged offender, prior to the report resulting in the current family assessment or investigation. Do not count prior maltreatment reports assigned for CPS family assessment or investigation in which the adult household members were child victims at the time, or those involving alleged offenders who are not part of the current household.

N4. Prior CPS history

Score based on prior CPS history:

- a. Not applicable.
- b. Prior determination for neglect and/or prior investigation resulted in case opening:
 - Prior determination for neglect: An adult household member had at least one prior investigation that resulted in a determination for neglect.

- Prior investigation resulted in case opening: A caregiver/adult household member received traditional CPS or foster care services from the agency (does not include family assessment response case services) as a result of a prior investigated report of abuse and/or neglect, or was receiving CPS or foster care services at the time of the current report.

N5. Number of children in the home

Number of individuals under 18 years of age *residing* in the home at the time of the current report. If a child is removed as a result of the assessment or is on runaway status, count the child as residing in the home.

N6. Age of youngest child

Score as appropriate given the current age of the youngest child presently in the household where the maltreatment incident reportedly occurred. If a child is removed as a result of the current investigation, count the child as residing in the home.

N7. Child in the home has a developmental disability/emotional impairment

Indicate if there is evidence that a child has a special need, including mental retardation, attention deficit disorder, learning disability, or emotional impairment.

N8. Number of adults in home at time of report

Number of individuals 18 years of age or older *residing* in the home at time of current report.

N9. Age of primary caregiver

Age at the time of assessment.

N10. Either caregiver has a history of domestic violence

Select “Yes” if *either* caregiver has a history of domestic violence in a current or prior relationship, defined as adult mistreatment of one another and evidenced by hitting, slapping, yelling, berating, verbal/physical abuse, physical fighting (with or without injury), continuing threats, ultimatums, intimidation, frequent separation/reconciliation, involvement of law enforcement and/or domestic violence programs, restraining orders, or criminal reports. Select “No” if neither caregiver has a history of domestic violence.

N11. Either caregiver has/had an alcohol or drug problem during the last 12 months

Either caregiver has a *current* alcohol/drug abuse problem, evidenced by use during the last 12 months that has caused conflict in the home, extreme behavior/attitudes, financial difficulties, frequent illness, job absenteeism, job changes, or unemployment; driving under the influence, traffic violations, criminal arrests, or disappearance of household items (especially those easily sold); or life organized around substance use. Includes alcohol and/or other drugs such as cocaine, marijuana, heroin, barbiturates, or prescription drugs.

N12. Primary caregiver has/had a mental health problem

Assess whether credible and/or verifiable statements by a caregiver or others indicate that the primary caregiver has been diagnosed with a significant mental health disorder by a mental health clinician, had repeated referrals for mental health/psychological

evaluations, or was recommended for treatment/hospitalization or treated/hospitalized for emotional problems.

ABUSE

A1. Current report is for abuse

Score based on the specified allegations. Allegations include any problem under assessment even if not identified in the original report.

- a. No: Current report is not for any type of abuse.
- b. Yes, allegation of abuse, any type: Current report is for any type of abuse.

A2. Current report results in determination of physical abuse

Score based on the findings regarding any allegations identified during assessment/investigation.

- a. No: Current report does not result in determination of physical abuse.
- b. Yes: Current report results in determination of physical abuse.

A3. Number of prior assigned reports of abuse

Score based on prior CPS history.

- a. None.
- b. One or more: Count all maltreatment reports, determined or not, that were assigned for CPS family assessment or investigation for any type of abuse, in which one or more adult household members were the alleged offender, prior to the report resulting in the current family assessment or investigation. Do not count prior maltreatment reports assigned for CPS family assessment or investigation in which the adult household members were child victims at the time, or those involving alleged offenders who are not part of the current household.

A4. Prior investigation resulted in case opening

A caregiver/ adult household member received traditional CPS or foster care services from the agency (does not include family assessment response case services) as a result of a prior investigated report of abuse and/or neglect of caregiver/adult household member, or was receiving CPS or foster care services at the time of the current report.

A5. Number of children in the home

The number of individuals under 18 years of age *residing* in the home at the time of the current report, including those who were removed as a result of the assessment or who are on runaway status.

A6. Either caregiver was abused as a child

Select “Yes” if credible statements provided by the caregiver(s) or others indicate that *either or both* caregivers were abused as children. Abuse includes physical, sexual, and any other type of abuse. Select “No” if neither caregiver was abused as a child, based on credible statements by the caregiver(s) or others.

A7. Primary caregiver lacks parenting skills

Primary caregiver demonstrates an inability or unwillingness to care for/supervise children, lacks knowledge of child development and age-appropriate expectations for children, and/or has poor knowledge or use of age-appropriate disciplinary methods.

A8. Either caregiver employs harmful and/or developmentally inappropriate discipline

Select “Yes” if either caregiver’s disciplinary practices caused or threatened harm to a child because they were harmful physically or emotionally, and/or inappropriate to the child’s age or development. Examples may include consistent deprivation of affection or emotional support to a child or persistent berating, belittling, and/or demeaning of a child.

A9. Either caregiver has a history of domestic violence

Select “Yes” if *either* caregiver has a history of domestic violence in a current or prior relationship, defined as adult mistreatment of one another and evidenced by hitting, slapping, yelling, berating, verbal/physical abuse, physical fighting (with or without injury), continuing threats, ultimatums, intimidation, frequent separation/reconciliation, involvement of law enforcement and/or domestic violence programs, restraining orders, or criminal reports. Select “No” if neither caregiver has a history of domestic violence.

A10. Either caregiver’s parenting style is over-controlling

Select “Yes” if either caregiver over-controls the child and/or expects immediate compliance. This may be characterized by a caregiver seeing his/her own way as the only way or little two-way communication between the caregiver and child.

A11. Child in the home has a developmental disability or a history of delinquency

a. No. No history of either.

b. Developmental disability including emotional impairment. There is evidence that a child has a special need, including developmental disability, attention deficit disorder, learning disability, or emotional impairment.

c. History of delinquency. Any child has been referred to juvenile court for delinquent or status offense behavior. Status offenses not brought to court attention but which create stress within the household should also be scored here, such as children who run away from home, are habitually truant from school, or have drug or alcohol problems.

d. Developmental disability and history of delinquency.

A12. Primary caregiver has/had a mental health problem

Assess whether credible and/or verifiable statements by a caregiver or others indicate that the primary caregiver has been diagnosed with a significant mental health disorder by a mental health clinician, had repeated referrals for mental health/psychological evaluations, or was recommended for treatment/hospitalization or treated/hospitalized for emotional problems.

A13. Alleged offender is an unmarried partner of the primary caregiver

Select “Yes” if an unmarried partner of the child’s primary caregiver is the alleged or determined offender of child maltreatment.

SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

S1. Father, stepfather, boyfriend, or male roommate provides unsupervised child care to a child under the age of 3

- a. No.
- b. Yes: The child(ren)’s father or stepfather, the boyfriend of a female primary caregiver, or a male roommate in the home provides unsupervised child care to any child in the household who is under the age of 3.
- c. Not applicable. There is no father, stepfather, boyfriend, or male roommate in the home.

S2. Is the father, stepfather, boyfriend, or male roommate employed?

- a. No. The father, stepfather, boyfriend, or male roommate providing care to a child in the household under the age of 3 is not employed.
- b. Yes. The father, stepfather, boyfriend, or male roommate providing care to a child in the household under the age of 3 is employed.
- c. Not applicable. There is no father, stepfather, boyfriend, or male roommate in the home.