

**CWS5307W Assessing Safety, Risk and Protective Capacities  
Supervisor Training Follow-up Guide**

<p><b>Course Description</b></p>	<p>This course is for Child Welfare workers and supervisors in Child Protective Services and/or Permanency programs. It focuses on practical techniques for conducting fair and accurate assessments of safety and risk and utilizing protective capacities to increase child safety and reduce risk in CPS and FC plans. Learners learn to define safety, risk, assessment, and protective capacity and distinguish between risk and safety; assess and monitor safety at decision points across the service continuum throughout the life of a case; intervene based on level of risk and identified protective capacities; identify the minimum sufficient level of care for children and explore the least drastic/restrictive alternatives to address concerns of safety and risk; and use a solution-based model to increase family and caregiver involvement in the creation of assessments, safety plans, and service plans.</p> <p>Topics include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Differentiating between immediate safety threats and future risk.</li> <li>2. Defining protective capacities in caretakers which can mitigate safety and risk factors.</li> <li>3. Exploration of how bias, values and culture impact our work with families.</li> <li>4. Mutually developing least restrictive safety plans with caretakers.</li> <li>5. Service planning to reduce risk, increase safety and promote permanency.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Purpose</b></p>	<p>Please complete the following field practice activities to facilitate discussions with your worker about how training supports their ability to effectively assess and engage families in order to promote safety, permanency, and well-being for children.</p>
<p><b>Field Practice Activities to Support the Application of Learning</b></p>	<p>Have the worker identify a <b>Practice Profile</b> and discuss how the worker behaviorally demonstrates that element on a consistent basis.</p> <p><b>Completion date:</b> _____</p> <p>Have the worker use foursquare sorting (Handout C-1) to identify safety/danger threats, protective elements, risk factors and other (non-abuse issues) on a specific case. Discuss how the safety plan focuses only on the safety/danger threats. How does the vulnerability of child impact the assessed severity of the safety threat? (Handout D-1)</p> <p><b>Completion date:</b> _____</p> <p>Ask the worker to identify the three domains of Protective Capacity and, regarding a specific caretaker on their caseload, discuss which domain(s) requires enhancement to increase child safety. (Handout D-3).</p> <p><b>Completion date:</b> _____</p> <p>During a case staffing, have the worker identify how culture, ethnicity, language and/or trauma is an influence in the caretaker's child rearing practice. What are some strategies the worker can employ to gain a better understanding of cultural influences?</p>

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**Completion date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Ask the worker to identify a behaviorally specific objective on a service plan designed to reduce risk and enhance protective capacity. Is it measurable and sustainable? How would the caretaker demonstrate it?

**Completion date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Summary of Caseworker's Learning**

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**This activity has been completed and reviewed with the worker.**

Worker:	Date Completed
Supervisor:	Date Reviewed

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Supervisor Comments: