

CALIFORNIA
SDM® HOTLINE TOOLS

r: 06/15

Referral Name: _____

Referral #: _____

Date: ____/____/____ County: _____

STEP I. PRELIMINARY SCREENING

- ☐ Review of screening criteria is not required
 - ☐ Evaluate out
 - ☐ No child under age 18
 - ☐ Duplicate referral that contains no new information
 - ☐ Referred to another county
 - ☐ Allegations of harm in a group home, residential treatment facility, or other institution
 - ☐ Safely surrendered baby

If any of the above are marked, the screening decision has been made and the assessment is completed. No further SDM assessments are required.

STEP II. APPROPRIATENESS OF A CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT REPORT FOR RESPONSE

A. Screening Criteria (Elicit reporter's concerns and mark all that apply.)

Physical Abuse (If not automatic 24-hour, go to physical abuse tree)

- ☐ Non-accidental or suspicious injury
 - ☐ Death of a child due to abuse AND there is another child in the home (automatic 24-hour)
 - ☐ Severe (automatic 24-hour)
 - ☐ Other injury (other than very minor unless child is under 1 year old)
- ☐ Caregiver action that likely caused or will cause injury (other than very minor unless child is under 1 year old)
- ☐ Prior death of a child due to abuse AND there is a new child, of any age, in the home

Emotional Abuse (go to emotional abuse tree)

- ☐ Caregiver actions have led or are likely to lead to child's severe anxiety, depression, withdrawal, or aggressive behavior toward self or others
- ☐ Exposure to domestic violence

Neglect

☐ Severe neglect (if not automatic 24-hour, go to neglect tree)

- ☐ Diagnosed malnutrition (automatic 24-hour)
- ☐ Non-organic failure to thrive
- ☐ Child's health/safety is endangered
- ☐ Death of a child due to neglect AND there is another child in the home (automatic 24-hour)

☐ General neglect (go to neglect tree)

- ☐ Inadequate food
- ☐ Inadequate clothing/hygiene
- ☐ Inadequate/hazardous shelter
- ☐ Inadequate supervision
- ☐ Inadequate medical/mental health care
- ☐ Caregiver absence/abandonment
- ☐ Involving child in criminal activity
- ☐ Failure to protect
 - ☐ Family sexual exploitation
 - ☐ Commercial sexual exploitation:
 - ☐ Child has been commercially sexually exploited and/or sex trafficked while in placement [notify worker for immediate response and notify licensing]
 - ☐ Child has been commercially sexually exploited and/or sex trafficked [not in placement] — provide immediate placement support.]

- ☐ Threat of neglect (go to neglect tree)
 - ☐ Prior failed reunification or severe neglect, and new child in household
 - ☐ Allowing child to use alcohol or other drugs
 - ☐ Prior death of a child due to neglect AND there is a new child, of any age, in the home
 - ☐ Prenatal substance use
 - ☐ Other high-risk birth

Sexual Abuse (go to sexual abuse tree)

- ☐ Any sexual act on a child by an adult caregiver or other adult in the household, or unable to rule out household member as alleged perpetrator
- ☐ Physical, behavioral, or suspicious indicators consistent with sexual abuse
- ☐ Sexual act(s) among siblings or other children living in the home
- ☐ Family sexual exploitation
- ☐ Commercial sexual exploitation
 - ☐ Child has been commercially sexually exploited and/or sex trafficked while in placement (notify worker for immediate response and notify licensing)
 - ☐ Child has been commercially sexually exploited and/or sex trafficked (not in placement) — provide immediate placement support
- ☐ Threat of sexual abuse
 - ☐ Known or highly suspected sexual abuse perpetrator lives with child
 - ☐ Severely inappropriate sexual boundaries

B. Screening Decision

- ☐ Evaluate out: No criteria are marked
*For differential response counties, proceed to Step IV-A, Path Decision for Evaluate Out.
 For counties not implementing differential response, stop. No further SDM assessments required.*
- ☐ In-person response: One or more criteria are marked
Proceed to Step III, Response Priority

Overrides

- ☐ In-person response. No criteria are marked, but report will be opened as a referral. No further SDM assessments required. Mark all that apply.
 - ☐ Courtesy interview at law enforcement's request
 - ☐ Residency verification
 - ☐ Response required by court order
 - ☐ Local protocol (specify): _____
 - ☐ Other (specify): _____
- ☐ Evaluate out: One or more criteria are marked, but report will be evaluated out. No further SDM assessments required. Mark all that apply.
 - ☐ Insufficient information to locate child/family
 - ☐ Another community agency has jurisdiction
 - ☐ Historical information only

STEP III. RESPONSE PRIORITY

- Mark if applicable.
- ☐ Allegation concerns maltreatment by current substitute care provider AND county policy requires response within 24 hours (automatic 24-hour)
 - ☐ Child is already in custody (automatic 24-hour)

If not applicable, complete the appropriate decision tree(s).

A. Decision Trees

PHYSICAL ABUSE

Do ANY of the following apply?

- ☐ Medical care currently required due to alleged abuse
- ☐ Caregiver's behavior is alleged to be dangerous or threatening to child's health or safety (reasonable person standard)
- ☐ Allegation of physical injury to non-mobile child or any child under age 2 (or capability equivalent)

Yes
Within
24 Hours

No

Is there a nonperpetrating caregiver aware of the alleged abuse who is demonstrating a response that is appropriate and protective of the child?

Yes
Within
10 Days

No

Do ANY of the following apply?

- ☐ Child is vulnerable or fearful
- ☐ There is prior history of physical abuse
- ☐ There is current concern that domestic violence will impact the safety of the child within the next 10 days

Yes
Within
24 Hours

No

Within 10 Days

NEGLECT

Do ANY of the following apply?

- ☐ Child requires immediate medical/mental health evaluation or care
- ☐ Child's physical living conditions are immediately hazardous to health or safety
- ☐ Child is currently unsupervised and in need of supervision
- ☐ Substance-exposed newborn will be discharged within 10 days AND no caregiver appears willing and able to provide for the infant upon discharge

Yes
Within
24 Hours

No

Within 10 Days

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

☐ Child is exhibiting behavior that threatens the health or safety of the child or others AND caregiver is unable or unwilling to seek appropriate help or control the child's behavior

☐ Caregiver's behavior is alleged to be cruel, bizarre, or dangerous to the emotional health or safety of the child

Yes
Within
24 Hours

No

Within 10 Days

SEXUAL ABUSE

☐ Is there current abuse/exploitation as evidenced by disclosure, credible witnessed account, or medical evidence?

No
Within
10 Days

Yes

☐ Is there a nonperpetrating caregiver aware of the alleged abuse/exploitation who is demonstrating a response that is appropriate and protective of the child?

No/
Unknown
Within
24 Hours

Yes

Within 10 Days