JUSTIFYING A CAREGIVER CAN AND WILL PROTECT

A Reference Guide

The following are examples of family situations which should support the determination that a caregiver can and will protect the child against impending danger threats to child safety. In some situations, more than one of these conditions would be necessary to support and confirm a caregiver’s capacity to protect.

☐ Caregiver has demonstrated the ability to protect the child in the past while under similar circumstances and family conditions.

☐ Caregiver has made appropriate arrangements which have been confirmed to assure that the child is not left alone with the maltreating person. This may include having another adult present within the home who is aware of the protective concerns and is able to protect the child.

☐ Caregiver can specifically articulate a plan to protect the child, such as the caregiver leaving when a situation escalates, calling the police in the event the restraint order is violated, etc.

☐ Caregiver believes the child’s report of maltreatment and is supportive of the child.

☐ Caregiver is physically able to intervene to protect the child.

☐ Caregiver does not have significant individual needs which might affect the safety of the child, such as severe depression, lack of impulse control, medical needs, etc.

☐ Caregiver has asked, demands, expects the maltreating adult to leave the household and can assure the separation is maintained effectively.

☐ Caregiver has adequate resources necessary to meet the child’s basic needs.

☐ Caregiver is capable of understanding the specific threat to the child and the need to protect.

☐ Caregiver has adequate knowledge and skill to fulfill caregiving responsibilities and tasks. This may involve considering the caregiver’s ability to meet any exceptional needs that the child might have.
☐ Caregiver is cooperating with the caseworker's efforts to provide services and assess the specific needs of the family.

☐ There is no precedence for the current maltreatment in respect to type and severity, and the caregiver demonstrates appropriate concern and intolerance.

☐ Caregiver is emotionally able to carry out a plan and/or to intervene to protect the child (caregiver not incapacitated by fear of maltreating person).

☐ Caregiver has legally separated from maltreating caregiver and has/does demonstrate behavior to suggest he or she will not reunite until circumstance warrants or they are proceeding with divorce action.

☐ Caregiver displays concern for the child and the child's experience and is intent on emotionally protecting the child.

☐ Caregiver and child have strong bond, and caregiver is clear that the number one priority is the well-being of the child.

☐ The caregiver consistently expresses belief that the maltreating person is in need of help, and he or she supports the maltreating person getting help. This is caregiver's point of view without being prompted by CPS.

☐ While the caregiver may be having a difficult time believing the other person would maltreat the child, the caregiver describes the child as believable and trustworthy.

☐ Caregiver does not place responsibility on the child for the problems of the family.