



## Assessment of Child Safety



### Case Information

Smith		
Family name	Referral date	Referral number
Child welfare (CW) specialist name	County	Case

### Assessment Purpose:

- |                                                                                   |                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assessment/Individualized service plan (ISP) development | <input type="checkbox"/> Case closure  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Investigation                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Reunification |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Significant change in case circumstances                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Visitation    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement of parental rights                         |                                        |

### Child(ren)

Name	Date of birth	Gender	Tribe	In household	Role in case	Date of first FTF visit
Misty Smith	6 years	Female	N/A	Yes	Victim	

### Parent or person responsible for child (PRFC)

Name	Date of birth	Gender	Tribe	In household	Role in case	Date of first FTF visit
Gary Smith	30 years	Male	N/A	Yes	prfc/perp	
Sheila Smith	31 years	Female	N/A	Yes	prfc/perp	

### I. Six Key Questions Used in Gathering Information

Compiling sufficient information in these six areas provides an understanding of how the family functions and their protective capacities that allow a child safety decision to be made.

Conduct an Assessment of Child Safety (AOCS) per Oklahoma Administrative Code (OAC) 340:75-3-300, OAC 340:75-4-12.1, or OAC 340:75-6.

#### For Child Protective Services and Family-Centered Services:

Assess, observe, and gather information from the child(ren) and every person responsible for the child (PRFC) in the family, and at least two collaterals, unless protocol is modified by the supervisor.

#### For Family-Centered Services and Permanency Planning:

Assess, observe, and gather information from the child(ren) and every PRFC in the family, and all individuals providing support and service providers. The ongoing AOCS is completed and stored in the KIDS case File Cabinet.

## 1. Maltreatment - What is the extent of the abuse and/or neglect?

Describe the extent of the alleged maltreatment to determine if the child(ren) has been abused or neglected, considering what is occurring or has occurred. Information gathered in this section provides evidence to support or rule out child maltreatment.

It was reported Gary Smith was involved in a domestic violence altercation with Sheila Smith. Misty Smith, age 6, was injured during this altercation as she was being held in Mrs. Smith's arms.

Misty reported she was sitting in her mom's lap during an argument between her mom and dad. They were initially shouting at each other, but then her dad got up from his chair and hit her mom in the head. Misty's mom jumped out of her chair, still holding Misty in front of her, and started yelling and kicking at her dad. Her dad then tried to punch her mom in the face, but hit Misty instead causing a bloody nose and bruised lip. Misty began to cry and her mom and dad calmed down. According to Misty, her parents "fight all the time" including hitting, slapping, pushing and yelling. Misty reported seeing her dad choke her mom on one occasion, to the point that her mom "went to sleep." Misty stated her mom went to sleep and then her dad calmed down. Misty reports only being caught up in the fights a few times, but she is usually able to "get out of the way" before getting hurt. This is the first time Misty has actually been injured during a fight. Misty reported she and her mom have left the home before after a fight, but returned the next day. On one occasion they went to the YWCA, but usually go to her grandmother's home.

## 2. Circumstances - What surrounding circumstances accompany the maltreatment?

Describe the circumstances and behaviors or conditions surrounding the alleged maltreatment, including intent, explanation(s) given, acknowledgement, attitude, history, or pattern of maltreatment, criminal history, and presence of other problems. In other words, include *what happened, why did it happen, has it happened before, and without intervention, is it likely to happen again?*

Mrs. Smith reported having a "rocky" relationship with Mr. Smith. Mrs. Smith reported the most recent incident occurred due to Mr. Smith drinking too much and arguing over everything. Ms. Smith stated they began to argue about what to watch on TV. Misty wanted to watch Sponge Bob, but Mr. Smith wanted to watch ESPN. When Mrs. Smith informed him they would be watching Sponge Bob, Mr. Smith jumped up from his chair and hit her in the head. Mrs. Smith admitted to then getting out of her chair and trying to kick Mr. Smith while still holding onto Misty. Mr. Smith then tried to punch Mrs. Smith, but hit Misty in the face instead and bloodied her nose. Mrs. Smith reported feeling "awful" about Misty getting injured because she shouldn't have been caught in the middle. Mrs. Smith reported this is the first incident Misty got caught in because she usually hides when they begin fighting. Mrs. Smith acknowledges leaving Mr. Smith on occasion, but usually returning within a few days.

Mr. Smith's story was relatively the same as Mrs. Smith's. He reported getting angry because he wanted to watch ESPN and hadn't been able to watch his TV programs all day. Mr. Smith denied drinking too much; however, there was an overwhelming smell of alcohol coming from Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith expressed remorse over Misty getting hurt; however, he blamed Mrs. Smith for the entire altercation. Mr. Smith reported if "she would have just changed the channel, none of this would have happened."

Mr. and Mrs. Smith have an extensive Child Welfare history which includes: May 20\_\_ Allegation of neglect - exposure to domestic violence; neglect - substance abuse; neglect - lack of supervision; and neglect - threat of harm. The family could not be located due to picking up and moving before

the investigation could be completed. In April 20\_\_ allegations of neglect - exposure to domestic violence. Mr. Smith was arrested for choking Mrs. Smith in the presence of the child. DHS removed Misty from the home for a period of eleven months while Mr. and Mrs. Smith received domestic violence counseling.

Mr. Smith has been arrested one time for domestic abuse. He served one year probation and completed a Batterer's Intervention Program. When Mr. Smith was 18, he was arrested for assault and battery after getting into a fight with a friend over a card game. Mr. Smith served probation for this incident.

Mrs. Smith does not have any criminal history; however, the police have been called to the home by Mrs. Smith eight times for domestic violence-related incidents.

Janie Jones, maternal grandmother, reported Mr. and Mrs. Smith have a long history of fighting. They have been together for approximately twelve years and have always had a "rough" relationship. Ms. Jones reported being concerned about Mrs. Smith's safety and the safety of her child, Misty. Other collaterals also confirmed the domestic violence between Mr. and Mrs. Smith. One collateral admitted being afraid of Mr. Smith due to his "violent temper." Mr. Smith was convicted of assault and battery due to getting into a fight with a friend one night over a card game. Mr. Smith injured the friend bad enough that he was admitted to the hospital.

### **3. Child Functioning - How does each child in the home function on a daily basis?**

Describe vulnerability, special needs, physical and emotional health, child development status, school performance, peer/social/sibling relationships, role within the family, attachment with PRFC(s), mood and behavior, age appropriate functioning, response to CW intervention, fearfulness, supports, and sexual reactive or acting out behavior, and verbal and social skills. Ensure sleeping arrangements are safe and appropriate.

Misty is a friendly six year old. She is in the first grade and makes good grades. Misty does not receive any special education services in school. Misty is outgoing and has many friends. Misty does not have any siblings; although she wishes she had a "little brother or sister." Misty reported being sad sometimes due to not having anyone to play with after school. Misty enjoys riding her bike, reading books, playing with friends and playing board games. Her favorite board game is Candy Land. Misty does not have any behavior problems and, reportedly, has a close relationship with both parents. Misty reports being afraid of her parents when they fight because they "get scary." She's not afraid they will hurt her, but afraid they will hurt each other. Misty usually hides in her room or out of the way when her parents begin to fight. Misty denied ever being afraid of her parents.

Collaterals report Misty is attached to her parents, especially Mrs. Smith. She is always hugging and kissing on her mom and gets upset when her parents fight. The school counselor reported Misty is an "excellent student" who works hard to learn and always completes her school work on time. Misty never appears afraid or withdrawn. She is an outgoing child who likes to interact with people.

#### **4. Discipline - Describe the disciplinary approaches used by each PRFC and under what circumstances?**

Describe methods of discipline used, frequency, and purpose of discipline by including examples of appropriate purposes, such as: providing direction, managing behavior, and/or teaching; emotional state of each PRFC when disciplining; each child's perception of discipline methods; PRFCs' agreement on discipline; each PRFC's view of his or her own discipline experience; cultural implications; and if the discipline is based on reasonable expectations of the child and whether it works.

Misty reported being put in timeout when she is in trouble. Timeout is having to go to her room and lay on her bed. She receives timeout if she "backtalks" her mom or dad or when she "throws a tantrum." Misty denied ever being spanked by her parents. She was not able to name many times she experienced discipline.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith report Misty is a good child that rarely needs discipline; however, they prefer to use timeout when needed. Both parents deny using any type of physical discipline with Misty. Mrs. Smith reported putting Misty in timeout for five to ten minutes depending on how much she needed to "calm down." Mrs. Smith reported using punishment when Misty gets "mouthy," becomes too hyper or throws a temper tantrum. This behavior does not occur often. Mr. and Mrs. Smith are in agreement on discipline practices. Mr. and Mrs. Smith reported they plan on using grounding as needed when Misty gets older.

Mrs. Smith reported never being physically disciplined as a child. She was put into timeout and grounded depending on the situation. Mr. Smith was spanked as a child, but doesn't believe it was excessive. He did experience bruising on occasion when spanked by his father, but feels he usually deserved the punishment.

#### **5. Parenting - Describe the overall family values and cultural influences within the family, the overall typical and pervasive parenting practices used by each PRFC.**

Discuss each PRFC's knowledge and expectations related to child development and parenting, each PRFC's perceptions of each child, and the tolerance and interaction between each PRFC and each child. This includes a description of the protective capacities of each PRFC and whether or not they are sufficient to keep the child safe.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith report parenting Misty in a "relaxed" manner. A "relaxed" manner was defined as not providing too much discipline and allowing Misty to make some decisions and experience mistakes. Mr. and Mrs. Smith speak highly of Misty and used words such as "gifted, bright, charming, talented, beautiful" to describe her. Mr. and Mrs. Smith reported Misty's daily schedule consists of getting up in the morning about 7am and eating breakfast, going to school, getting home about 4pm, eating dinner about 7pm, and bedtime around 9pm. Mrs. Smith reads books to Misty and plays games with her. Mrs. Smith's favorite time of day was with Misty in the evenings before bed. Mr. Smith reported enjoying the evenings with Misty; however, sometimes he's "too tired to play games or read." Mr. and Mrs. Smith report holding Misty and rubbing her back when she cries. Mr. and Mrs. Smith reported Misty is a picky eater. They struggle at meals to get her to eat certain foods such as vegetables. Mrs. Smith stated that Misty would eat only oatmeal if allowed.

When asked about the effect domestic violence has on Misty, both parents feel "she will survive." Mr. and Mrs. Smith denied their fighting caused harm to Misty because they "take good care" of Misty. Mr. and Mrs. Smith admitted Misty is usually present during the fighting, but she calms down

quickly after they quit fighting. Mr. and Mrs. Smith expressed remorse over Misty getting hurt, and reported they will ensure Misty never gets caught up in their fighting again.

Mr. Smith denied his drinking affects his parenting. Mrs. Smith is always present in the home when he drinks and she does the majority of the care-taking.

Collaterals reported Mr. and Mrs. Smith take good care of Misty. They are loving and provide for all her needs. Mr. and Mrs. Smith are active in Misty's school and they do family activities such as going to the park on a regular basis. Collaterals denied having any concerns with Mr. and Mrs. Smith's ability to meet Misty's needs; however, they do express concern over the fighting between Mr. and Mrs. Smith due to Misty always being present. The collaterals feel the fighting is causing problems for Misty because she hides and appears scared when Mr. and Mrs. Smith begin to yell at each other.

**6. Adult Functioning - answer for each PRFC - How does the adult function with respect to daily life management and general adaptation? What mental health functioning and/or substance use is apparent on a daily basis?**

Describe how the PRFC feels, thinks, and acts on a daily basis with focus on functioning and coping skills. Describe the PRFC's coping and stress management abilities, self-control in relationships, problem solving abilities, judgment and decision making, home and financial management, employment history, domestic violence, behavioral and physical health capacity, social and familial support, and cultural norms.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith have been married for approximately twelve years. They have one child together and do not plan on having anymore children. Mr. Smith is currently employed at Sysco and has maintained this employment for approximately nine years. Mr. Smith makes "good money" and is able to meet the financial needs of the family. Mrs. Smith is employed as a hair dresser. She has been employed at her current salon for approximately six years. Mr. and Mrs. Smith both have a high school education. Mr. Smith has a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering and Mrs. Smith completed beauty school at the Vo-Tech. Mrs. Smith's money is more for "play" as Mr. Smith is able to pay the bills with his income.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith own their home and have resided there for approximately eight years. The home is clean and well-maintained with four bedrooms and three bathrooms. The home is neatly decorated; however, three holes were noted in the living room walls. Mr. and Mrs. Smith admitted the holes are from Mr. Smith getting angry and either throwing an object at Mrs. Smith and missing or hitting the walls with his fists.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith report having a "good" relationship, but have their "ups and downs." Mr. Smith was married once before, for a very short period of time. Mr. Smith denied any domestic violence in his previous marriage. Mr. Smith reported Mrs. Smith has a tendency to "push his buttons." Mrs. Smith denied ever being married and reported Mr. Smith was her first "real relationship" outside of high school. Mrs. Smith believes her marriage is "just fine," but would like to work on the fighting. She reports being embarrassed when people ask her about bruises she has when she is at work. Both Mr. and Mrs. Smith report being remorseful about Misty getting caught up in their fight. Mr. Smith broke down crying discussing Misty's injuries and commented he would "never intentionally hurt Misty." Mrs. Smith reported she would never want to see anything happen to Misty either.

Mr. Smith admitted drinking on occasion when he is tired from work. He denied having a drinking

problem. Mr. Smith admitted to using recreational drugs as a teen, but quit during college. He reported struggling to get up for class after smoking marijuana the night before, so he decided to quit in order to graduate. Mrs. Smith denied any history of drug or alcohol use.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith denied having mental health problems or physical health problems. They do not currently take medication.

Collaterals reported Mr. and Mrs. Smith are able to function in society; the only issue is their fighting. Mr. and Mrs. Smith both have good jobs and enjoy taking care of their home and going on vacations. Janie Jones, maternal grandmother, reported Mrs. Smith was a good kid and did well in school. he graduated high school, but chose to marry Mr. Smith instead of going to college. Mrs. Jones reported Mr. and Mrs. Smith are both intelligent people that need to learn how to deal with problems in order to prevent Misty from being hurt further.

## II. Protective Capacities of PRFC(s)

Assess the PRFC's available skills and/or resources that can be mobilized to contribute to the ongoing protection of the child. Protective capacities refer to how a person, thinks, acts, or feels.

- Demonstrates a pattern of deferring his or her own needs in order to meet the child(ren)'s needs  
PRFC # 1 \_\_\_\_\_ PRFC # 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- Demonstrates an ability to meet child(ren)'s basic and emotional needs  
PRFC # 1 \_\_\_\_\_ PRFC # 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- Shows support/concern for child(ren)'s health, safety, and well being  
PRFC # 1 \_\_\_\_\_ PRFC # 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- Demonstrates necessary skills to meet the child(ren)'s safety needs, chooses to do so, and can specifically describe times in the past when he or she has protected the child(ren)  
PRFC # 1 \_\_\_\_\_ PRFC # 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- Demonstrates he or she is physically capable of protecting the child(ren)  
PRFC # 1 \_\_\_\_\_ PRFC # 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- Demonstrates he or she is emotionally and mentally stable enough to intervene and protect the child(ren)  
PRFC # 1 \_\_\_\_\_ PRFC # 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- Demonstrates the ability to be tolerant, accepting, and understanding of the child(ren)  
PRFC # 1 \_\_\_\_\_ PRFC # 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- Demonstrates an ability to recognize and understand potential safety threats to the child(ren)  
PRFC # 1 \_\_\_\_\_ PRFC # 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Demonstrates he or she has ability to think reasonably and has a plan to protect the child(ren)  
PRFC # 1 \_\_\_\_\_ PRFC # 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Demonstrates a positive perception of child(ren) and has appropriate expectations based upon each child's development  
PRFC # 1 \_\_\_\_\_ PRFC # 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Can readily identify actions necessary to protect the child(ren) from serious harm and has ability to access resources to do so  
PRFC # 1 \_\_\_\_\_ PRFC # 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Conclusions about the enhanced or diminished PRFC(s)' protective capacities and how they affect the child(ren):

### III. Safety Threats/Impending Danger

Identify impending danger or safety threats by thoroughly collecting and assessing information regarding PRFC functioning to sufficiently assess and understand how family conditions occur.

Note: Impending danger exists only when the family conditions:

- are out of control;
- are severe;
- are specific and observable;
- are certain to happen in the next several days; and
- involve a child who is vulnerable either through age, disability, or inability to self-protect.

#### 1. Living arrangements seriously endanger a child's physical health

This safety threat refers to conditions in the home that create life-threatening conditions or threaten to seriously endanger a child's physical health.  Yes  No

Child(ren)	Associated PRFC(s)

Describe specific behaviors and/or conditions associated with this threat and how they affect the child(ren):

#### 2. PRFC(s) in the home lack the knowledge, skills, motivation, or abilities to perform parental duties and responsibilities

This refers to basic parenting that directly affects a child's safety. It includes the PRFC's failure to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, supervision, and/or protection from harm.  Yes  No

Child(ren)	Associated PRFC(s)

Describe specific behaviors and/or conditions associated with this threat and how they affect the child(ren):

### 3. PRFC(s) intends or intended to hurt the child

This refers to a PRFC who acts in a way that will result in pain and suffering. "Intended" suggests before or during the time the child was mistreated, the PRFC's conscious purpose was to hurt the child. This threat must be distinguished from an incident in which the PRFC meant to discipline or punish the child, and the child was inadvertently hurt.  Yes  No

Child(ren)	Associated PRFC(s)

Describe specific behaviors and/or conditions associated with this threat and how they affect the child(ren):

### 4. PRFC(s) does not have resources to meet basic needs

"Basic needs" refers to the family's lack of: (1) minimal resources to provide shelter, food, and clothing; or (2) the capacity to use resources when they were available. The lack of resources must be so acute that their absence could have a severe effect right away. The absence of these basic resources could cause injury, serious medical or physical health problems, starvation, or serious malnutrition.  Yes  No

Child(ren)	Associated PRFC(s)

Describe specific behaviors and/or conditions associated with this threat and how they affect the child(ren):

### 5. Child has exceptional needs the PRFC(s) cannot or will not meet

"Exceptional" refers to specific child conditions, such as intellectual disability, blindness, or physical ability, either organic or naturally induced, as opposed to parentally induced. By not addressing the child's exceptional needs, the PRFC will not or cannot meet the child's basic needs.  Yes  No

Child(ren)	Associated PRFC(s)

Describe specific behaviors and/or conditions associated with this threat and how they affect the child(ren):

### 6. Child is extremely fearful of the home situation

To meet this criterion, the child's fear must be obvious, extreme, and related to some perceived danger that child feels or experiences.  Yes  No

Child(ren)	Associated PRFC(s)

Describe specific behaviors and/or conditions associated with this threat and how they affect the child(ren):

### 7. PRFC(s) is violent and/or is unwilling or unable to control the violence

Violence refers to aggression, fighting, brutality, cruelty, and hostility. It may be actively occurring or certain to occur in the near future. The PRFC exhibits violence that is unmanaged and/or unpredictable.  Yes  No

Child(ren)	Associated PRFC(s)

Describe specific behaviors and/or conditions associated with this threat and how they affect the child(ren):

### 8. PRFC(s) cannot or will not control behavior

There must be specific information to suggest that a PRFC's impulsive, addictive, bizarre, compulsive, depressive, and/or similar behaviors cannot be controlled by the individual or anyone else in the household.  Yes  No

Child(ren)	Associated PRFC(s)

Describe specific behaviors and/or conditions associated with this threat and how they affect the child(ren):

**9. PRFC(s) has extremely unrealistic expectations or an extremely negative perception of the child**

"Extremely" refers to a perception so negative that, when present, it creates child safety concerns and/or the perception or expectation of the child is totally unreasonable and/or rigid.  Yes  No

Child(ren)	Associated PRFC(s)

Describe specific behaviors and/or conditions associated with this threat and how they affect the child(ren):

**IV. Safety Decision**

Child(ren) is (select one):

- SAFE** - Based on the safety assessment, there is a determination that all of the children are in an environment without any safety threats or where threats are being managed by a protective PRFC.
- UNSAFE** - Based on the safety assessment, there is a determination at least one of the the child(ren) is, or is believed to be in an environment with safety threats and without a protective PRFC.
- Not Applicable** Unable to locate, failure to cooperate, or child death.

Comments/Summary when safe:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CW specialist signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
CW supervisor signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**V. Safety Threat Intervention**

Check each step taken to protect the child(ren).

- Child death – no sibling
- Family-centered services case (FCS) –
  - Poor prognosis indicators per FCS policy evaluated and discussed with supervisor

CW supervisor signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

In home safety plan

Out-of-home safety plan

Recommend court involvement for a deprived petition.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
CW specialist signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
CW supervisor signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Services

Services provided:

Comments:

Services recommended:

Comments: