

Conditions for Return – Examples

The following provides an example for various impending danger threats. A specific – brief example is provided that mentions characteristics of the impending danger for a particular case. (Obviously more information about impending danger should be helpful.) The statements are simply stated, behavioral descriptions that can be used in safety plans. These can be used to define conditions for return, if a child has been removed. Such statements can be used by the case manager worker and the court to define what must occur in order for children to be returned home.

Example #1:

Impending Danger:

Parent/legal guardian/caregiver is not meeting child's basic and essential needs for food, clothing and/or supervision, AND child is/has already been seriously harmed or will likely be seriously harmed.

Case Information:

Mary impulsively leaves her child to party; the 6-year-old is alone often for several hours to more than a day at a time.

Conditions for Return:

- ⊙ A responsible adult is in the home providing care and supervising Brittany all the time whenever she is not in school.---Safety Services are available.
- ⊙ A plan for supervision by a suitable babysitter exists whenever Mary is away from the home.---Safety Services are available and at the level needed to assure child safety.

Example #2

Impending Danger:

Parent/legal guardian/caregiver is violent, impulsive, or acting dangerously in ways that seriously harmed the child or will likely seriously harm to the child.

Case Information:

Cindy lashes out at her 8-year-old son, Steve, hitting him uncontrollably with her fists and with objects.

Conditions for Return:

- ⊙ Bill, Steve's father, or another responsible person can be in the home at all times that Steve is home and prevent Cindy from behaving violently and acting on her violent impulses.—Safety Services.
- ⊙ A plan is in place for Steve to be away from the home and Cindy at all times when a protective person is not in the home.---Safety Services are available.
- ⊙ Cindy does not interfere with care being provided by others.---Parent is willing for safety services.

Example #3

Impending Danger:

Parent/legal guardian/caregiver is violent, impulsive, or acting dangerously in ways that seriously harmed the child or will likely seriously harm to the child.

Case Information:

Greta is so depressed that she cannot provide basic care for her three children (7, 4, and 2); she is lethargic; sleeps most of the time; refuses to take medication; cries and sobs; cannot keep the home safe or hygienic.

Conditions for Return:

- ⊙ A person or persons (e.g., family members, volunteers, neighbors, service providers) are available and accessible to assist in child care, supervision, and protection as often and for as long as necessary.—**Safety Services**
- ⊙ A responsible person assures that the home is safe and clean.—**Safety Services**
- ⊙ Greta follows the necessary medical regimen to treat her depression including routinely taking her medication.—**Willing, able, and cooperative.**

Example #4:

Impending Danger:

The child's physical living conditions are hazardous and a child has already been seriously injured or will likely be seriously injured. The living conditions seriously endanger a child's physical health.

Case Information:

Junior and Rita's home is near being condemned because of the physical structure, faulty wiring, and unhealthy conditions. There is no heat and the plumbing is inadequate. The couple is mildly developmentally disabled and makes poor choices about use of their money and care of their home.

Conditions for Return:

- ⊙ Junior and Rita accept and follow the instructions and guidance of a homemaker – home management safety service provider related to money and home management.—**Safety Services.**
- ⊙ The home is sufficiently clean and cared for so that no hygiene problems exist.—**The home is calm enough.**
- ⊙ A plan which Junior and Rita can follow is in place for proper maintenance and adequate repair to make sure the home is livable day by day.—**Safety Services.**
- ⊙ Junior and Rita set aside money for and make acceptable decisions about the upkeep of their house.—**Willing and able.**

Example #5:

Impending Danger:

Parent/legal guardian/caregiver is threatening to seriously harm the child; is fearful he/she will seriously harm the child.

Case Information:

Marsha's coping with her newborn infant's colic and fitful temperament has deteriorated. Lack of sleep, feelings of inadequacy as a parent are combining in ways that frighten Marsha and lead her to having thoughts of hurting the baby and/or asking CPS to take her.

Conditions for Return:

- ⊙ A responsible family member or combination of volunteers, professionals are in the family home every day and at all times to provide adequate supervision and care of the baby, as well as supervise all contact Marsha has with the baby.—**Safety Services.**
- ⊙ Marsha is able to recognize and discuss the combination of factors that culminated in her fearing she might maltreat (e.g., lack of sleep, lack of information regarding colic, soothing methods, isolation, self-doubt, etc.).---**Willing and able to cooperate.**
- ⊙ Marsha is able to request help from others for respite, support, encouragement before the stressors combine to create a crisis. ---**Willing and able to cooperate.**

Example #6

Impending Danger:

Parent/legal guardian/caregiver is not meeting the child's essential medical needs AND the child is/has already been seriously harmed or will likely be seriously harmed.

Lydia has an acute/serious breathing problem requiring constant and elaborate care including the use of medical technology. Her mother, Sandy, is easily distracted; in denial about the medical problem; preoccupied with having fun.

Conditions for Return:

- ⊙ A suitable family member, neighbor, volunteer person is willing, available and accessible at sufficient levels and with sufficient expertise to make sure that Lydia receives necessary routine care concerned with her medical condition.—**Safety Services.**
- ⊙ Sandy acknowledges the dangers involved in Lydia not being properly treated and is supportive in seeing that it is done, if not by her, then by others. ---**Parent willing and able.**
- ⊙ Sandy agrees to consult with a public nurse weekly to report on how Lydia is doing.--**Parent willing and able.**