

## Mock State Safety Assessment

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**Case Name:** Diaz

**Child:** Javier Diaz

**Date of Birth:** 03-01-99

**Date of Assessment:** 1-14-15

**Parent:** Manuel Gomez (guardian)

**Date of Birth:** 09-12-62

**Parent:** Lisa Gomez (guardian)

**Date of Birth:** 10-27-60

### Safety Assessment and Safety Conclusion

**A. Safety Threats:** Refers to negative family conditions and/or circumstances, and/or caregiver behaviors, emotions, attitudes, and perceptions that are out of control in the presence of a vulnerable child and therefore likely to have severe effects on a child at any time in the near future

- **Out-of-Control:** Refers to family behavior, condition, or situations which are unrestrained, resulting in an unpredictable and possibly chaotic family environment not subject to the family's influence, manipulation, or ability to control. Such out-of-control family conditions pose a danger.
- **Severity:** Refers to the effects of maltreatment that have already occurred and/or potential for harsh effects
- **Imminent:** Refers to the belief that dangerous family behaviors, conditions, or situations will remain active or become active within the next several days to within a month. This is consistent with a degree of certainty that, barring intervention, danger and severe harm are possible or even inevitable outcomes.
- **Observable:** Refers to family behaviors, conditions, or situations representing a danger to a child that are specific, definite, real, can be seen and understood, and are subject to being reported and proven
- **Vulnerable Child:** Refers to a child who is dependent on others for protection and exposed to circumstances that she or he is powerless to manage and is susceptible, accessible, or available to a threatening person and/or persons in authority over them. Vulnerability is judged according to age, physical and emotional development, ability to communicate needs, degree of mobility, size, and level of dependence and susceptibility. This definition also applies to all young children ages 0 to 6 and older children who, for whatever reason, are not able to protect themselves or seek help from protective others.

#### Safety Threats

1. No adult in the home is performing basic parenting duties and responsibilities that assure child safety.

YES

NO

2. One or both parents/caregivers are violent and/or acting dangerously.

YES

NO

3. One or both parents/caregivers will not/cannot control their behavior. YES  NO
4. One or both parents/caregivers perceive a child in extremely negative terms. YES  NO
5. The family does not have or use resources necessary to assure child's safety. YES  NO
6. One or both parents/caregivers are threatening to severely harm a child or are fearful they will maltreat a child and/or request placement. YES  NO
7. One or both parents/caregivers intend(ed) to seriously hurt a child. YES  NO
8. One or both parents/caregivers lack parenting knowledge, skills or motivation necessary to assure a child's safety. YES  NO
9. A child has exceptional needs that affect his/her safety which parents/caregivers are not meeting, cannot meet or will not meet the child's needs. YES  NO
10. Living arrangements seriously endanger a child's physical health. YES  NO

**B. Safety Assessment:** Answer the following based on the safety threats identified and proceed as instructed.

1. One or more safety threats are identified. YES  NO
2. If Yes to the above, proceed to C below.
3. If No to the above, proceed to E below.

**C. Child Vulnerability**

YES  NO

Explain how each child is vulnerable to the identified safety threats:

*The child is much smaller than his uncle and was easily hurt and victimized when the uncle lost control and became violent (#s 2 and 3), striking the child, in the incident that brought him into care. The guardian aunt and uncle continue to view the child in very negative terms (#s 4 and 9) and refuse to accept responsibility*

*for the abuse. Rather, they feel that the child provoked the incident (#8). They refused a safety plan (#5) and asked for the child's removal initially (#6). The guardians, in the 4 months the child has been in care, have continuously refused to engage in services that would help ameliorate the conditions that caused the abuse.*

**D. Protective Capacity Evaluation of Non-Maltreating Caregiver:** Indicate below whether or not the non-maltreating parent or other adults residing in the home can/will protect the child.

- Can and Will Protect (Provide justification below)
- Cannot/Will Not Protect (Proceed to E)
- N/A – no other caregiver in home or no non-maltreating caregiver

State the basis for your professional judgment if your conclusion is that a non-maltreating parent/caregiver can and will protect the child. Describe protective capacities and how the parent/caregiver has protected the child in the past.

**E. Case Opening or Closing:**

- The case will remain open.
- There is an unsafe child (safety threat, vulnerable child, and non-protective parents). If the case will remain open, complete F and G.
- The risk level is High.
- The case can be closed. There is no unsafe child and the risk level is low or moderate. Indicate reasons and move to signature section:

**F. Impending Danger Description:** Describe how impending danger is currently manifested in the family. Include how each threat is occurring, when and how often, and under what circumstances. Include whether others are involved, whether all five safety threshold criteria apply, and the inability of the family to control the threat to child safety.

*The child's guardians view the child very negatively because of his homosexuality. His uncle, the perpetrator, has shown poor impulse control and easily became threatening and abusive to the child when the incident occurred that brought him into care. Both the aunt and uncle are disgusted by the child and feel that he provoked the abuse. The aunt was unwilling to protect the child from his uncle, and both refuse to accept responsibility for the abuse. Because of their consistent refusal to engage in services to ameliorate the conditions that led to the abuse, the child would continue to be in danger if he were returned to their care.*

**G. Analysis for In-Home Safety Plan:** Complete to determine if an in-home safety plan is appropriate.

1. Are the parent/caregivers residing in the home?

YES  NO

2. Is the home calm/consistent enough to allow for safety services to come into the home?

YES  NO

3. Are parent/caregivers willing to allow and/or participate with an in-home safety plan?

YES  NO

4. Are services/resources available to participate with an in-home safety plan?

YES  NO

If **NO** to any of the above, an in-home safety plan is not appropriate.

### Signature and Approval

Vanessa Thomas

Foster Care Worker

1-14-15

Date

Robin White

Foster Care Supervisor

1-14-15

Date