



Key Concept: *“The Ongoing Safety Plan”*

The **Ongoing Safety Plan** is a documented set of actions or interventions that manage a child’s safety when safety threats are identified and parent or caregiver protective capacities are insufficient to protect a child.

What Are the Criteria for an Ongoing Safety Plan?

- **Must control or manage impending danger**
- **Must have an immediate effect**
- **Must be immediately accessible and available**
- **Must contain safety services and actions only**
- **Is not based on promissory commitments**

Ongoing Safety plans are different than case plans or action agreements. The table below outlines the differences.

The Ongoing Safety Plan	The Case Plan or Action Agreement
The purpose is to control.	The purpose is to change.
The ongoing safety plan is limited to controlling impending danger threats.	The case plan is put in place following further assessment and when the family is ready (or when policy demands.)
Activity and services within the plan are dense which means there are a lot of things going on frequently.	Activity and services can be spread out and occur intermittently over a long period of time.
The ongoing safety plan must have an immediate effect. This means it must work the moment it is set in place.	The case plan is expected to have long term effects achieved over time.
The safety service provider’s role and responsibility in the ongoing safety plan is exact and focused on safety threats.	The change service provider’s role and responsibility vary according to client need.



The **Ongoing Safety Plan** is designed along a continuum of the least to most intrusive intervention. The Ongoing safety plan may be exclusively an in-home plan. The ongoing safety plan may be a combination in-home and out of home plan. The ongoing safety plan may be exclusively an out of home plan.

For more information about the **Ongoing Safety Plan**, you are encouraged to reference the Child Welfare Procedure Manual, Chapter 2, Assessment, Section 13 and Chapter 3, Sections 4, 13, 14, and 16. The Procedure Manual can be found at http://www.dhs.state.or.us/caf/safety_model/index.html#pm

Definitions from Oregon Child Welfare Administrative Rule that support these concepts are as follows:

Case plan means a goal oriented, time limited individualized plan for the child and the child's family, developed by the Department and the parent(s) or legal guardian(s), that identifies the family behaviors, conditions, or circumstances, safety threats to the child, and the expected outcomes that will improve the protective capacity of the parents or legal guardians. The family plan described in ORS 417.375(1) is incorporated into the case plan to the extent that it protects the child, builds on family strengths, and is focused on achieving permanency for the child within a reasonable time.

Protective capacity means behavioral, cognitive, and emotional characteristics that can specifically and directly be associated with a person's ability to care for and keep a child safe.

Safe means there is an absence of safety threats, the child is not vulnerable to identified safety threats, or there is sufficient parent or caregiver protective capacity to protect the vulnerable child from the identified safety threats.

Ongoing safety plan means a documented set of actions or interventions that manage a child's safety when the Department has identified one or more safety threats to which the child is vulnerable and determined the parent or caregiver is unable or unwilling to protect the child. An ongoing safety plan can be in-home or out-of-home and is adjusted when necessary to provide the least intrusive interventions.