



What is the difference between Present Danger and Impending Danger? Give examples.

Present Danger is an IMMEDIATE, SIGNIFICANT, and clearly observable severe harm or threat of severe harm occurring in the present.

Impending Danger is a state of danger in which family conditions, behaviors, attitudes, motive, emotions and/or situations are out of control and, while the danger may not be currently active, it can be anticipated to have severe effects on a child at any time.

1. Typical Dirty House/Neglect Case:

Present danger could be: Unsafe and unsanitary conditions that children are exposed to such as the following:

- Animal or human feces on the floor
- Exposed wires in the house, within reach of young child/ren
- Rotting food within reach
- Broken glass on the floor

Impending danger would be the underlying factors that contributed to how/why the house became so dangerous. In this case these could include:

- Parent's/caregiver's intellectual capacities affect judgment and/or knowledge in ways that prevent the provision of adequate basic care.
- Parent/caregiver does not know or does not apply basic safety measures (e.g., keeping medications, sharp objects, or household cleaners out of reach of small children).
- Parent/caregiver mental illness impacts skills and motivation to provide basic care and safety for child/ren.
- Parent/caregivers depression issues impact motivation to provide for basic care and safety of child/ren.

2. Typical Drug Affected Infant Case:

Present danger could be:

- The doctor saying the presence of methamphetamine in the infant's system is affecting the child.



Impending danger could be:

- Parent/caregiver has addictive patterns or behaviors (e.g., addiction to substances, gambling or computers) that are uncontrolled and leave the child/ren in unsafe situations (e.g., failure to supervise or provide other basic care).
- The mother's reckless behavior caused her child to be born affected by methamphetamine and her addiction continues to interfere with her capacity to safely care for the child.

3. Typical domestic violence case:

Present danger could be:

- Both parents are physically struggling over the child (tug of war)
- Using the child as a shield
- The child is injured by an object that was thrown during domestic dispute.

Impending danger could be:

- Family violence involves physical and verbal assault of a parent in the presence of a child/ren, the child/ren witnesses the activity and is fearful for self and/or others.
- Parent/caregiver who is physically impulsive, exhibiting physical aggression, having temper outbursts or unanticipated and harmful physical reactions (e.g., throwing things).
- The power, control and violence the perpetrator exerts over the adult victim is impacting the child/ren's behavior or functioning.