

**Appendix 2.2**  
**Present Danger Threats**  
**(From Action for Child Protection Curriculum)**

*Maltreatment*

<i>Maltreating Now</i>	The parents' mistreatment of the child is occurring right now. The maltreatment will typically be physical, verbal or sexual in nature. Neglect that is chronic may be occurring in the present sense, but does not necessarily meet the criterion of danger.
<i>Multiple Injuries</i>	Although it is acceptable to consider this as injuries on different parts of the body as in bruises to the arms and lower legs, its intent is more accurately related to different kinds of injuries, as in a serious burn and bruising to the arms.
<i>Face/Head</i>	This includes bruises, cuts, abrasions, swelling or any physical manifestation alleged to have occurred as a result of parental treatment of the child.
<i>Serious Injury</i>	Typically, this would include bone breaks, deep lacerations, burns, malnutrition, etc.
<i>Premeditated</i>	There must be clear information that what has been alleged is associated with and a result of a deliberate, preconceived plan or thinking which the parent is responsible for and which preceded the maltreatment event.
<i>Several Victims</i>	This refers to the identification of more than one child who currently is being maltreated. There is no historical context here. Additionally, one must keep in mind that several victims in chronic neglect situations who are not at danger precludes the selection of this influence.
<i>History of Reports</i>	This influence requires no qualification about the nature of the previous reports as in whether they were minor or serious. Concern is assumed and accepted when a family has a history of reports. This present danger influence should

always be considered in relation to other influences when considering response time or emergency custody matters.

*Life Threatening*

*Living Arrangements* This is based on specific information which indicates that a child's living situation is an immediate threat to his/her safety. This would include the most serious health circumstances: buildings capable of falling in, exposure to elements in bitter weather, fire hazards, electrical wiring exposed, guns/knives available, etc.

*Unexplained*

*Injuries* This refers to a serious injury which parents and others cannot or will not explain.

*Bizarre Cruelty*

This qualifies the maltreatment that has been alleged and usually will require an interpretation. Such things as locking up children, torture, exaggerated emotional abuse, etc.

*Accessible to  
Maltreater*

This is another influence which must be considered in concert with other present danger influences when judging response or emergency safety. It refers to a situation such as only caretaker, significant amounts of caretaking time, isolation from others, etc. This influence can be used to indicate current accessibility as well as anticipated accessibility in the near future--such as when the child goes home from school.

*Child*

*Parent's Viewpoint  
of Child Is Bizarre*

This is the extreme, not just a negative attitude toward the child. It is consistent with the level of seeing the child as demon possessed.

*Child Is Unsuper-  
vised or Alone for  
Extended Periods*

Although this could involve an older child, to be present danger it is more likely to be a younger child. The time of day, of course, is important as is the length of time the

child has been unsupervised. This only applies if the child is truly without care, not someone is caring for the child and complaining that the mom is supposed to be but isn't presently. Keep in mind the present time concept here. If the child was unsupervised last night but is not alone now, it is not a present danger influence.

*Child is 0 - 6*

Like some of the others, this influence should be considered in relationship to other present danger influences such as alone.

*Child Unable to Protect Self*

This is like the influence above generally but will also include children who are older but may possess some incapacity.

*Child Fearful/  
Anxious*

This does not refer to generalized fear or anxiety. Children who are described as being obviously afraid of: their present circumstance, the home situation, or a person because of a concern of personal threat would fit this influence. Available information may be from actual communication or emotional/physical manifestation from the child's perception of their situation.

*Child Needs  
Medical Attention*

To be a present danger influence, the medical care required must be significant enough that its absence could seriously affect the child's health and well-being. In other words, if children are not being given routine medical care, it would not constitute a present danger situation. It should have an emergent quality.

***Parent***

*Parents Are Unable to Perform Parental Responsibilities*

This only refers to those parental duties and responsibilities consistent with basic care or assuring safety. This is not associated with whether parents are effective parents generally, but whether their inability to provide basic duties leaves the child in a threatened state.

*Bizarre Behaviors* This requires interpretation. Unpredictable, incoherent, weird, outrageous, or totally inappropriate behaviors fit this influence.

*Parents Described As Dangerous* Dangerous parents may be behaving in bizarre ways; however, this is intended to capture a more specific type of behavior. Information would be considered present danger here when parents are described as physically/verbally imposing and threatening, brandishing weapons, known to be dangerous and aggressive, currently behaving in attacking or aggressive ways, etc.

*Parent* This influence may include aspects of the two preceding influences.

*Out-of-Control* However, this allows for capturing emotional upset or depressed people who cannot focus themselves or manage their behavior in ways to properly perform their parental responsibilities. Their actions or lack of actions may not be directed at the children, but may affect them in dangerous ways.

*Parent Intoxicated* Applying the present time context, this refers to a parent who is drunk now or is consistently drunk all the time. The state of the parent's condition is more important than the use of a substance (drinking compared to drunk).

*Caregivers Overtly Reject Intervention* This threat refers to situations where a caregiver refuses to see or speak with child welfare staff and/or to let child welfare staff see the child; is openly hostile or physically aggressive toward child welfare staff; refuses access to the home; hides child or refuses access to child.

### *Family*

*Family Isolated* This is a dependent influence as many others are. In other words, this influence must be considered in relationship to

other influences when assessing or deciding about response or emergency protection. This refers to both geographic and social isolation.

*Spouse Abuse Present*

This considers family situations in which the alleged child maltreatment is accompanied by spouse abuse. For example, a child is being mistreated and acknowledges that a parent is also being mistreated, thus suggesting a violent situation which is generalized among members. Concern is heightened if both abuses are presented as occurring during the same time, and more concerning if that same time is now.

*Family Will Flee*

This may require some interpretation. Transient families, homes which are not established, families with limited possessions, etc. are included.

*Family Hides Child*

This should be thought of in both overt and covert terms. For example, a child being physically restrained within the home or parents who avoid allowing others to have personal contact with their child can be considered. This may include passing a child around to other adults, relatives or different homes.

***Other***

*Services Inaccessible or Unavailable*

This is an influence that becomes present danger when considered in relation to other influences which demand access to services. For instance, a child who has a routine need for a particular kind of medical service which is a life threatening need and the service is inaccessible, a present danger circumstance may be apparent.