



Keeping Kids Safe and Families Healthy 2.0

A Common Practice Approach

RED Teams

RED (Review, Evaluate and Direct) Teams are child protection professionals who consistently gather information from reports of abuse and neglect and consistently make decisions about whether or not to conduct an assessment or investigation.

This collaborative approach brings multiple experts to the table and leads to more informed and shared decision making.

RED teams consider the following factors when assessing child abuse or neglect referral calls:

Danger and Harm

- Danger - Is there an imminent threat of serious actions that could hurt the child right now, physically, developmentally or emotionally?
- Harm - Have there been past actions by the caregiver that hurt the child physically, developmentally or emotionally?

Complicating Factors and Risk

- Complicating Factors – Anything that further complicates the work of creating safety but does not rise to the level of harm.
- Risk – Detailed concerns of what could happen in the future. Risk should identify the likelihood of future maltreatment.

Child Vulnerability

- A child is vulnerable to the threat of harm due to his/her age, developmental level, cognitive impairment, physical disability, illness inability, ability to communicate, ability to meet basic needs, or similar factors.

Race and Cultural Considerations

- Cultural beliefs, values, resources that influence the family's lifestyle and parental practice.

Safety and Strengths

- Safety - Acts of protection taken by the caregiver that mitigate the risk. The acts are demonstrated over time.
- Strengths – Living, nurturing or support skills that are important but do not directly address the harm/danger/risk. Strengths can build protection.

History

- A description of the family's history with County Human Services, the court system and/or law enforcement.

Gray Area

- Circumstances regarding the family that are suspected by the reporting party based on what they have heard and/or experienced. These circumstances require follow up to determine accuracy and actual risk.

Next Steps

- Direction from the RED Team for the assigned worker, and next steps for screening and review.