



Pre-Detention Activities that Impact Permanency

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Investigations



4 KEY ASSESSMENTS / 4 KEY METRICS

1) IS THE CHILD SAFE?
Safety Assessment

2) HAS CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT OCCURRED?
Penal Codes 11165.1 -.6

3) SHOULD THE REFERRAL BE PROMOTED TO A CASE?
Risk Assessment

4) DOES THE EVIDENCE SUPPORT COURT INVOLVEMENT?
WIC 300

What questions need to be asked to determine safety?

Is the child safe?

Is there a safety threat?

Does an alleged perpetrator have access?

How can safety be established?

Is a Safety Plan viable?

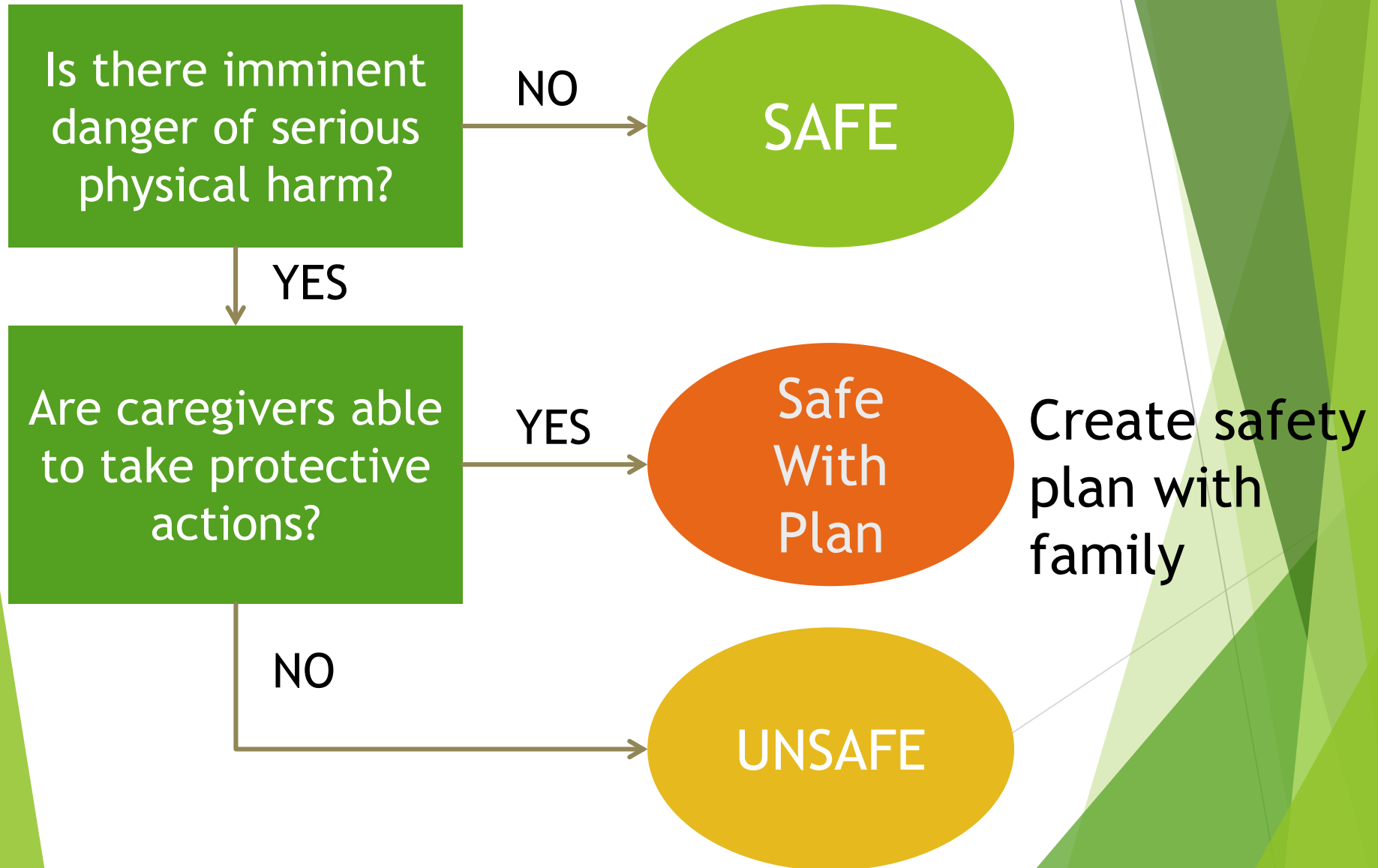
Who will do what?

How can safety be maintained?

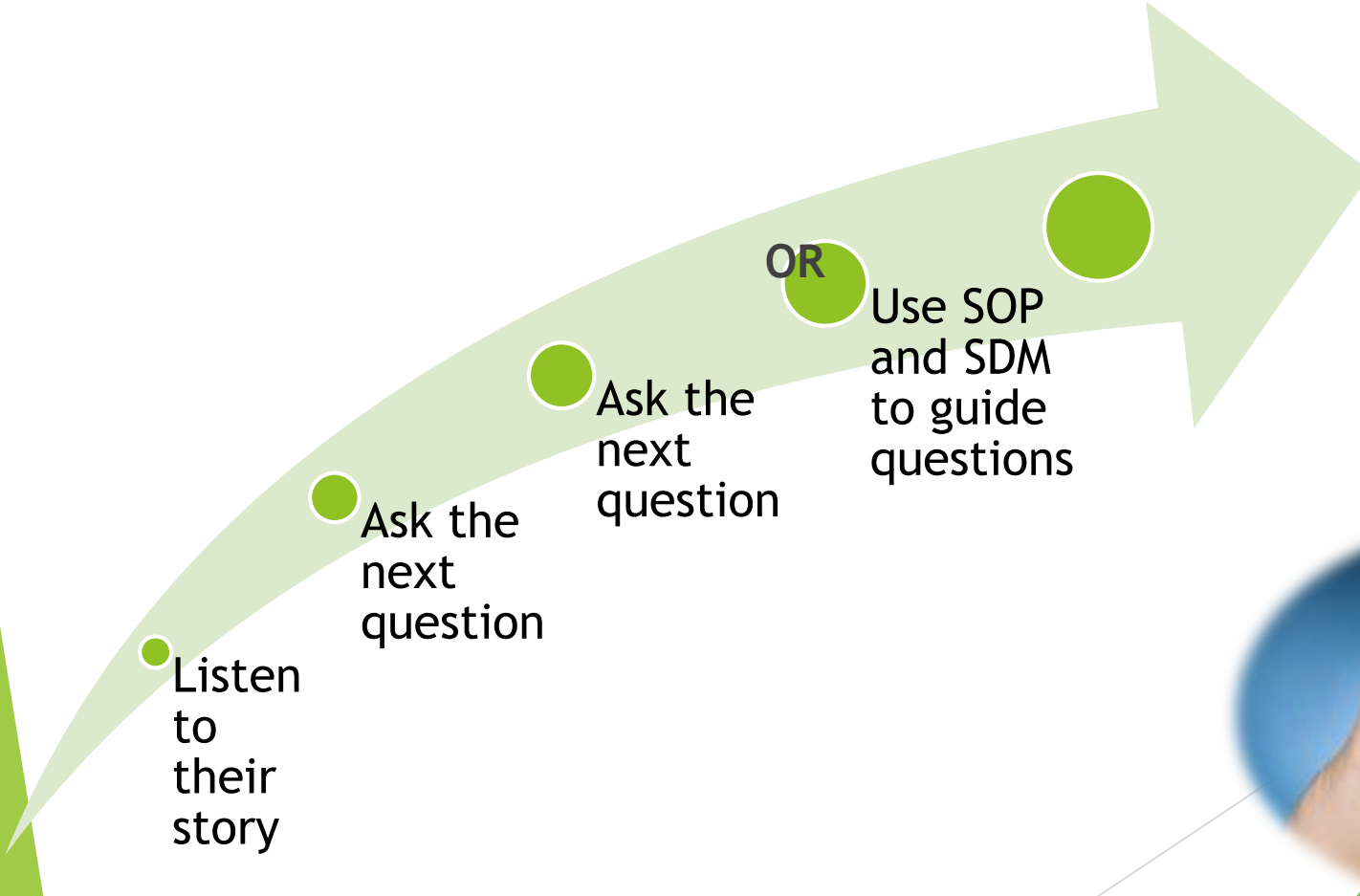
Can family maintain safety without CWS involvement?

Is a CWS case warranted?

SDM and Safety Threats



Engagement Opportunities



- Listen to their story

- Ask the next question

- Ask the next question

OR

- Use SOP and SDM to guide questions



Engagement

PSW introduces self and explains she is there to investigate a report received about a domestic violence incident in the home.

OR

PSW introduces self and explains she/he is going to ask a bunch of questions and then TOGETHER THEY can figure out next steps to keep the kids safe. PSW explains CWS's goal is to help parents build safety for their kids. PSW establishes need for open honest communication so TOGETHER they can make decisions that will be in the kid's best interest.

THE POWER OF ENGAGEMENT

“How did you get the bruises on your face and arms?

or

“Was there a time when a DV incident almost happened, but you were able to protect yourself and your children were not exposed to any violence? What was different that time?”

Including the voice of the child

The purpose of interviewing children is to assess the impact of their parent's behavior on them and to include the child's voice in your assessment.



Three Houses

Safety House

Types of Evidence Gathered

RP/Child/Parents

Photos

Collaterals

Police/Forensic Reports/Other
Documentary Evidence

Did abuse or neglect occur?

PENAL CODE § 11165.6 DEFINITION OF CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Physical injury or death inflicted by other than accidental means upon a child by another person

Unlawful corporal punishment of a child

The willful harming or injury of a child

The endangerment of the person or health of a child

Neglect

Sexual Abuse

Did Abuse or Neglect occur?

THE PENAL CODES DEFINE
ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Sexual Abuse
PC § 11165.1

General/Severe
Neglect PC §
11165.2

Emotional Abuse
PC § 11165.3
and 11166.05

Physical Abuse/
Willful Harming
of a Child PC §
11165.3 and .4

What does the evidence tell us?

PENAL CODE 11165.12

Substantiated

- Credible evidence that makes it more likely than not that child abuse, neglect or exploitation occurred.

Inconclusive

- Not “unfounded” but findings are inconclusive and without enough info to determine if abuse, neglect or exploitation occurred.

Unfounded

- Determined to be false, an accidental injury or not constituting child abuse.

Investigations



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Should the referral be promoted to a case?

RISK ASSESSMENT

Factors of Prior Investigations
Factors of Current Investigation
Family Characteristics

Likelihood of Future Harm

LOW

MEDIUM

HIGH

VERY HIGH

CLOSE
REFERRAL

OPEN A CASE
(VOLUNTARY OR
PETITION)

Family Engagement

- ▶ Child and Family Team Meeting
- ▶ Safety Mapping

Establishing Trust

Building Rapport

Asking Questions

Gathering
Information

Evaluating and
Assessing

Consulting

Avoiding biases

Interventions

- ▶ Close referral and provide referrals
- ▶ Voluntary
- ▶ File a petition in Juvenile Court

Need for Referrals to Services

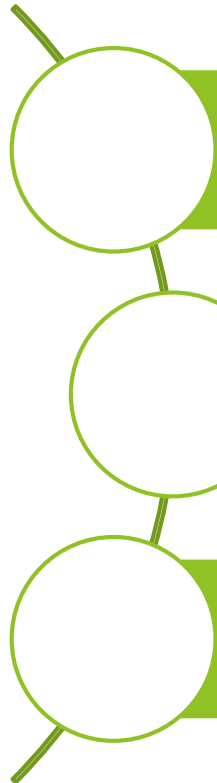
- ▶ A restraining order is needed to keep a mother safe at home with her child.
- ▶ A landlord/tenant issue is jeopardizing a family's stable housing.
- ▶ A relative needs a guardianship to establish permanency.
- ▶ A parent on probation has an outstanding warrant and a heightened risk of reincarceration.
- ▶ A parent in recovery needs help finding a new sponsor.
- ▶ Language or literacy issues are preventing a parent from finding consistent employment.

Voluntary Case Plan under WIC 301

- ▶ Substantiated allegation of abuse or neglect
- ▶ Moderate to high risk
- ▶ Family willing to work with Agency
- ▶ Substantial risk child will enter foster care
- ▶ 6 months—can be extended to 12 months in certain situations

Does the evidence support court involvement?

WIC 300

- 
- Is the Child described by WIC 300a-j?
 - Is Court Intervention needed?
 - Is there sufficient evidence to support risk of future harm?