Tailored Dispositional Conditions for Return Desk Guide

A tailored dispositional condition for return is intended to address identified safety threats and should identify parental/caregiver behaviors that must change in order for safety to be managed. The condition should be measurable, easily understood by the parent/caregiver and focus on protective capacities to ensure sustainable change.

Key Elements of Conditions

Culturally Competent: Does the condition take into consideration the culture, race and/or ethnicity of the family?
Least Intrusive: Is the level of disruption to the family necessary to control for safety of the child(ren)?

SMART Goal Writing Model for Conditions

Specific: What impending danger threat is the condition addressing?
Measurable: Does the condition make it clear what behavior needs to change?
Achievable: Is it possible for the parent/caregiver to successfully meet the condition? How will it be known when progress is made?
Realistic: Is the condition written in a way that the parent/caregiver understands?
Timely: Is the condition related to a behavior change that can begin or occur promptly?

Preparation Questions for Drafting Conditions

1) What are the identified Impending Danger Threat(s)?
2) What protective capacities does the parent/caregiver need to enhance?
3) What needs to change so the child(ren) is safe?
4) What behavioral changes does the parent/caregiver need to make?

Resource

The WI DCF Child Protective Services Safety Intervention Standards provides guidance to help determine if a condition is related to a safety threat.

See *Safety Appendix on Impending Danger* and *Safety Appendix on Parent/Caregiver Protective Capacities*

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DCF-P-5458 (N. 06/2021)

Critical Thinking

Below are examples of some common categories of dispositional conditions, along with a series of questions to think critically about how to determine if the condition is necessary. Please note this list is not exhaustive.

Substance Use Disorder (SUD)	Parenting	Mental Health
Is the condition necessary because the parent's/caregiver's SUD is the reason for the removal and/or CHIPS order? Is the SUD resulting in an unsafe condition in the home based on the safety assessment? Does the parent/caregiver have a demonstrated history of safely managing their use to ensure the safety of the child(ren)?	What unsafe parenting behaviors, related to the identified safety threats, need to be managed or changed in order for the child(ren) to be safe in the home? When reading the conditions, is it clear to the parent/caregiver what they need to change about their parenting behaviors? AND Are the conditions addressing an underlying behavior related to the safety threats?	What unsafe behavior(s) is the parent/caregiver exhibiting related to their mental health that is resulting in an unsafe condition in the home? How will you know when the parent/caregiver has made sufficient progress towards managing their mental health? What does the parent/caregiver need to address in mental health treatment related to the safety of their child(ren)?

Questions to Consider when Finalizing Recommendations for the Dispositional Report

- Are the conditions written in a way that support reunification with an in-home safety plan as soon as safety threats can be controlled in the home?
- Is it clear what the parent/caregiver is expected to do in order to have their child returned and are those expectations related to the safety threats identified?
- Is the intent of each condition to change a behavior as opposed to expecting compliance with a service?
- Are the conditions written so that it is clear what each parent/caregiver is expected to change?

* If the answer to these four questions is "no," it is important to consider if/why the condition is needed.