



New Hampshire Division for Children, Youth and Families Policy Manual
1198 LOW AND MODERATE RISK CONSIDERATIONS

Chapter: **Child Protective Field Services**
Section: **CPS Family Assessments**

Approved:

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Policy Directive: **22-49**

Effective Date: **August 2022**

References Of Note

Federal Authority:

Statutes: [RSA 169-C](#)

Administrative Rules:

Case Law:

This policy defines practices for unfounded Assessments in which the children are determined to be safe and a SDM Risk Assessment determines low or moderate risk of future maltreatment.

Required Practices

Any deviations to the following information must be documented with Supervisory Approval.

- I. All CPS Assessments are initiated, commenced, and conducted in accordance with policy [1172 CPS Assessments of Abuse and Neglect](#).
- II. When children are determined to be safe, a SDM Risk Assessment indicating low or moderate risk of future maltreatment may support a decision to adopt Alternative Assessment Practices, such as:
 - A. Not interviewing/observing siblings or other children in the home;
 1. The safety of all children must still be assessed and the whereabouts of all children in the home must still be accounted for;
 - B. Not interviewing or contacting a parent not residing in the home;
 - C. Not visiting the home; or
 - D. Not making additional collateral contacts.
- III. Any decision to adopt an Alternative Assessment Practice must:
 - A. Take into account the nature of the concerns and vulnerability factors of the children in the home;
 - B. Be approved by a CPS Supervisor; and
 - C. Be documented in the DCYF electronic information system.

- IV. When considering an alternative response to interviewing children/parents or seeing the home, the CPS Supervisor must confirm:
 - A. All allegations have been addressed;
 - B. The safety of all children in the home has been assessed and all children in the home are determined to be "safe" through the Safety Assessment tool;
 - C. All children known to reside in or visit the home currently or previously have been accounted for;
 - D. A protecting parent/guardian has been identified; and
 - E. The approved Risk Assessment determines low or moderate risk of future harm.
- V. An alternative response to interviewing children/parents or seeing the home is not appropriate, regardless of the approved SDM risk level, when:
 - A. The SDM Safety Assessment finds a child in the household to be unsafe or only conditionally safe;
 - B. There is a safety plan in place;
 - C. A protective parent/guardian is not identified;
 - D. The disposition of the Assessment will be founded or unfounded with reasonable concerns;
 - 1. Assessments determined to be founded or unfounded with reasonable concerns may be considered for closure when the perpetrator/alleged perpetrator is not a household member, will not have further contact with the child, and there is a protecting parent/guardian;
 - E. The parent(s)/guardian(s) or another household member currently misuses prescribed medications, alcohol, or illegal substances or has had an overdose in the previous 4 months;
 - F. The current Assessment is for an infant born substance-exposed and there are concerns for the parents' ability to meet the child's needs; or
 - G. The Assessment has been identified for [Risk and Safety Consultation \(RSC\)](#).
- VI. Any decision to adopt Alternative Assessment Practices must be documented in the closing summary, indicating key factors in the decision and that supervisory approval was obtained.

- A. Documentation must identify all actions taken to assess safety and risk and ensure the safety of all children in the home, as well as the reasons for any Alternative Assessment Practice based on the low or moderate SDM Risk Assessment level.

Standard Operating Procedures		
SOP	Title	Applicable Disciplines
1198.1	Alternative Assessment Practices	CPS

Glossary and Document Specific Definitions
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Document Change Log			
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