

SDM TRIBAL WORKGROUP PARTICIPANT PACKET

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

February 2021

Structured Decision Making® and SDM® are registered in the US Patent and Trademark Office



ABOUT EVIDENT CHANGE

Evident Change promotes just and equitable social systems for individuals, families, and communities through research, public policy, and practice. For more information, call (800) 306-6223 or visit us online at EvidentChange.org and [@Evident_Change](https://twitter.com/Evident_Change) on Twitter.

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WHAT IS SDM®?

The Evident Change Structured Decision Making® (SDM) model is a suite of assessment tools that promote safety and well-being for those most at risk. The first SDM® system was developed in child welfare and eventually was expanded to foster care and adult protection.

The SDM model combines research with practice strategies, carrying out Evident Change's commitment to making research actionable across social services systems. This combination offers workers a framework for consistent decision making and agencies a way to target in-demand resources toward those who can benefit most.

CALIFORNIA SDM® OVERVIEW

See policy and procedures sections for each tool for complete details.

DECISION	SDM® TOOL		WHICH CASES	WHO	WHEN
Accept referral for in-person response?	Hotline Tools	Screening tool	All referrals created in CWS/CMS	Worker receiving referral	Immediately
How quickly to respond?		Response priority	All referrals assigned an in-person response		Immediately
Path of response*		Path decision tool—evaluate out	All referrals that are evaluated out	Worker receiving referral OR designated differential response worker	Within five days
		Path decision tool—in-person response	All referrals assigned an in-person response		Immediately, if response priority = 24 hours; within 24 hours if response priority = 10 days
Can the child remain safely at home?	Safety assessment**		All in-person responses	Assigned worker	ALWAYS: Process completed during first face-to-face contact with at least one victim child in the household (record within 48 hours). Additional requirements: see pages 55–56.
Should an ongoing case be opened? At what service level?	Risk assessment		RECOMMENDED: all in-person responses. REQUIRED: all substantiated and inconclusive in-person responses.	Assigned worker	Within 30 calendar days of first face-to-face contact
Focus of case plan	Family strengths and needs assessment		All open cases	Worker responsible for case plan	INITIAL: Prior to initial case plan REVIEW: Voluntary, within 30 days prior to case plan; court, within 65 days prior to case plan
Can child be returned home, or should reunification efforts continue,	Reunification reassessment		Cases with at least one child in out-of-home care with goal of return home	Assigned worker	Division 31 = review every six months. No more than 65 calendar days prior to case plan

or should permanency goal be changed?				completion or reunification recommendation or permanency plan change. Sooner if there are new circumstances or new information that affects risk.
Can case be closed? If not, what level of service?	Risk reassessment Safety assessment	All open cases where ALL children are in the home.	Assigned worker	Division 31 = review every six months. Voluntary cases = No more than 30 calendar days prior to case plan completion or case closure recommendation. Involuntary cases = No more than 65 calendar days prior to case plan completion or case closure recommendation. All cases = sooner if new circumstances or new information that affects risk.

*Differential response counties only.

**The standard safety assessment is used for all referrals except substitute care providers. The substitute care provider safety assessment is used when the referral alleges maltreatment by a substitute care provider.

USING SDM[®] AT EACH DECISION POINT

Intake
Assessment



Should this referral be investigated?

Safety
Assessment



Can a child remain safely in the home?

Risk
Assessment



What is the likelihood of future system involvement?

Family Strengths
and Needs
Assessment



What interventions could address child and family needs?

Reunification
Assessment



Can the child return home?

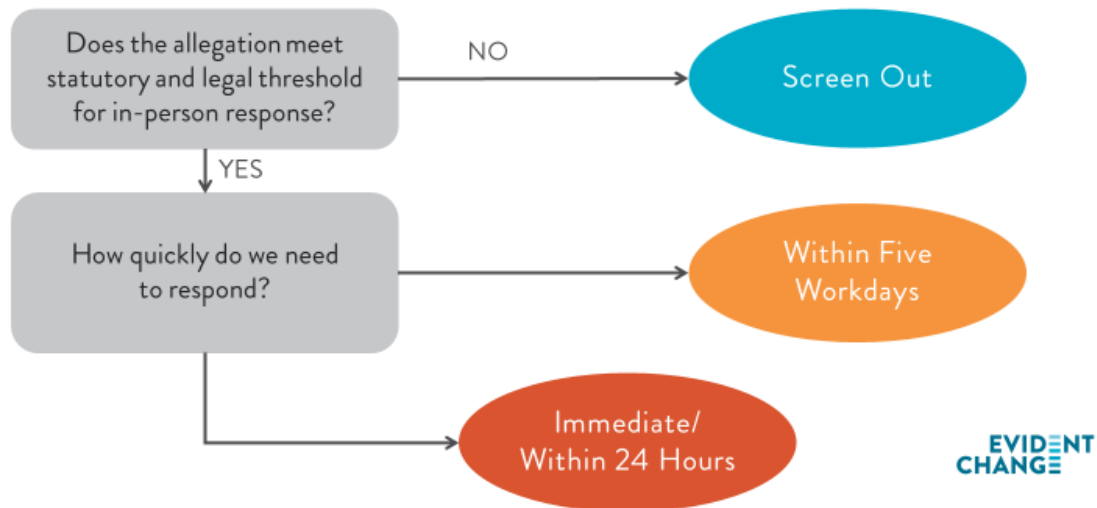
Risk
Reassessment



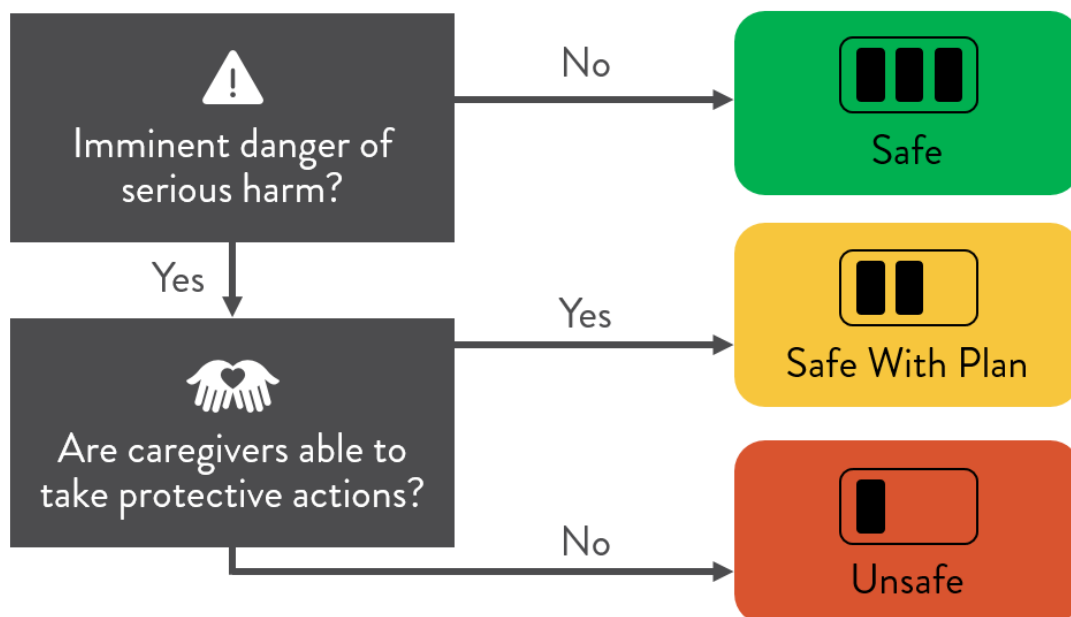
Should this case be closed?

SDM® TOOL LOGIC

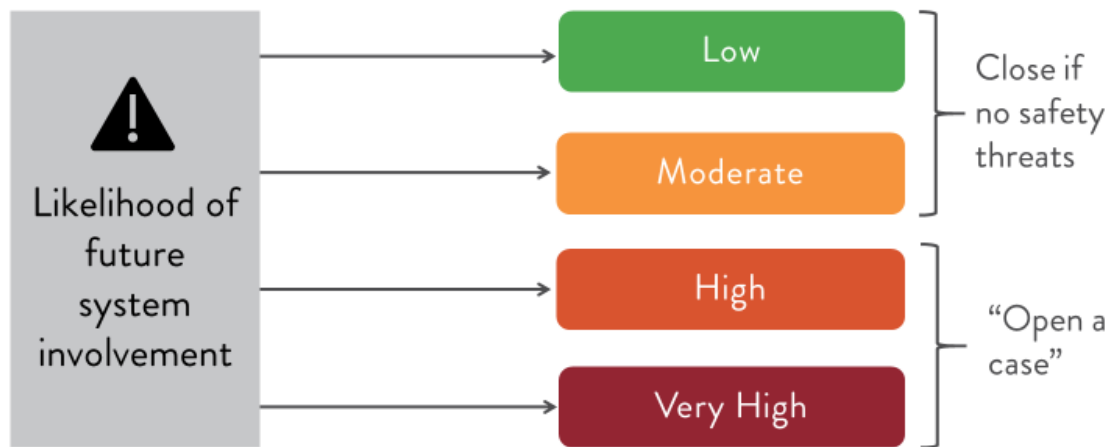
SDM® HOTLINE TOOL



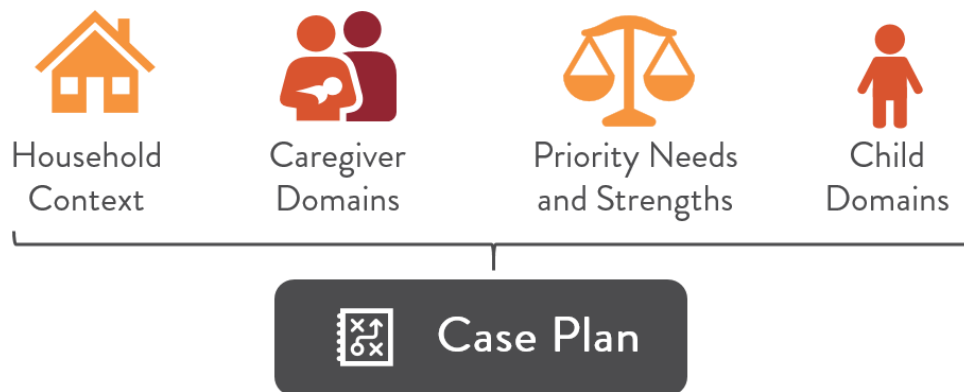
SDM® SAFETY ASSESSMENT



SDM® RISK ASSESSMENT



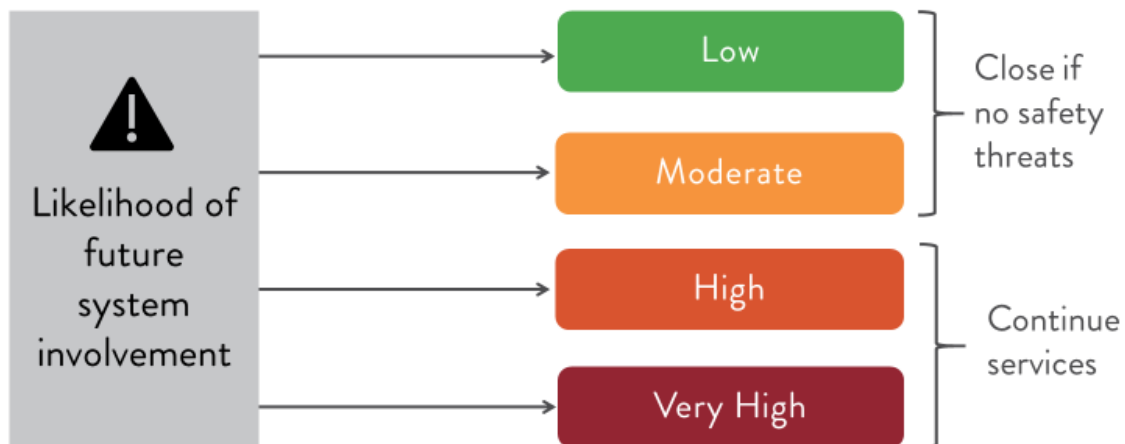
SDM® FAMILY STRENGTHS AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT



SDM® REUNIFICATION ASSESSMENT



SDM® RISK REASSESSMENT



HOW TO ACCESS THE WEBSDM TRAINING SITE AND MATERIALS

SDM TRAINING MATERIALS

Additional information on the SDM system of assessments is available on the California Training Site, which can be accessed at the link below. You will find a section on the site which includes the full SDM Policy and Procedures Manual, as well as blank SDM assessments. Additional training materials are available on this site, as well as a live feedback form where users and stakeholders can submit recommendations for updates.

The link to the training site is: <https://docs.evidentchange.org/california/>
Password: training

WebSDM Access

Please note that tribal partners and social workers are also able to access the WebSDM training site, where they can walk through the web-based assessments. This may be helpful when exploring specific definitions and thresholds, or during joint decision-making with County social workers.

The URL to this site is: <https://ca-training.sdmdata.org/>

Tribal partners can select the county that they partner with in the dropdown menu, and login using the following information.

- User name: student1
- Password: training

VIRTUAL WEBINAR SERIES

In the next few months, Evident Change will be conducting a series of virtual webinars to provide an overview for each of the SDM® assessments.

These sessions will be recorded and available to tribal partners who may not be able to attend full SDM trainings included in California Common Core. If you are interested in attending the webinars, please email ccrowley@evidentchange.org and we will send you an invitation to the webinar series with more information as dates and times are confirmed.

Thank you!