

# Safety-Organized Practice

Safety-organized practice describes a collaborative approach to child welfare casework that helps all those involved with the child stay focused on assessing and enhancing daily child safety. This approach includes three objectives.



## Developing Good Working Relationships

**Rigorous and balanced interviewing** involves asking families about their concerns and the times they kept their child(ren) safe—and building on what has worked well.

**Including the child's voice in casework** means using tools to help children contribute to case planning in ways that are developmentally appropriate.

**A common language** allows professionals and family members to use the same words to describe the same situations.



## Critical Thinking and Using Decision-Support Assessment Tools

**A collaborative assessment and planning framework** is a group process to organize and analyze ambiguous case information, increasing clarity about the work and next steps.

**The Structured Decision Making® system**, in tandem with professional judgment, ensures that key child welfare decisions are made in ways that are consistent with research and policy.

**Worry statements** (known as “danger statements” in some jurisdictions) are crafted using simple, non-judgmental language to provide rationale for continued child welfare involvement.



## Collaborative Planning

**Clear goals for the agency and family** describe what needs to happen for the case to be closed.

**Support networks** offer a child and the child's parents a group of people who understand their situation and agree to act to help keep the child safe.

**Behavior-based plans** include detailed actions that parents agree to take to ensure their child(ren) is safe.