

Referral Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Referral #: \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_      Date: \_\_\_\_\_      County: \_\_\_\_\_

**STEP I. PRELIMINARY SCREENING**

- Review of screening criteria is not required
  - Evaluate out
    - No child under age 18. (Do not apply in reports of death of the only child[ren] in household where death is suspected to be related to abuse or neglect.)
    - Duplicate referral that contains no new information
    - Referred to another county
  - Safely surrendered baby

**If any of the above are selected, the screening decision has been made and the assessment is completed. No further SDM assessments are required.**

**STEP II. APPROPRIATENESS OF A CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT REPORT FOR RESPONSE**

Does the report contain allegations of abuse or neglect in out-of-home care to a dependent or ward child/youth?

- Yes** – When applying definitions of screening and response priority tools, the definition of “caregiver” should include “a person responsible for the child’s care and welfare (including a licensee, administrator, or employee of any facility licensed to care for children)” in accordance with Cal. Penal Code § 11165.5.
- No** – Apply screening and response priority tool definitions using the standard Structured Decision Making® (SDM) definition of “caregiver.”

**A. Screening Criteria** (Elicit reporter’s concerns and select all that apply.)

Physical Abuse (if not automatic 24-hour, go to physical abuse tree)

- Non-accidental or suspicious injury
  - Death of a child due to abuse (automatic 24-hour)
    - Death of only child or all children in home; no other children reported to be in the home
    - Other children reported to be in the home
  - Severe (automatic 24-hour)
  - Other injury (other than very minor unless child is under 1 year old)
- Caregiver action that likely caused or will cause injury (other than very minor unless child is under 1 year old)
- Prior death of a child due to abuse AND there is a new child of any age in the home

Emotional Abuse (go to emotional abuse tree)

- Caregiver actions have led or are likely to lead to child’s severe anxiety, depression, withdrawal, or aggressive behavior toward self or others
- Exposure to domestic violence

## Neglect

- Severe neglect (if not automatic 24-hour, go to neglect tree)
  - Diagnosed malnutrition (automatic 24-hour)
  - Non-organic failure to thrive
  - Child's health/safety is endangered
  - Death of a child due to neglect (automatic 24-hour)
    - Death of only child or all children in home; no other children reported to be in the home
    - Other children reported to be in the home
- General neglect (go to neglect tree)
  - Inadequate food
  - Inadequate clothing/hygiene
  - Inadequate/hazardous shelter
  - Inadequate supervision
  - Inadequate medical/mental health care
  - Caregiver absence/abandonment
  - Involving child in criminal activity
  - Failure to protect
- Threat of neglect (go to neglect tree)
  - Prior failed reunification or severe neglect, and new child in household (in-home only)
  - Allowing child to use alcohol or other drugs
  - Prior death of a child due to neglect AND there is a new child of any age in the home. (in-home only)
  - Prenatal substance use (in-home only)
  - Other high-risk birth (in-home only)

## Sexual Abuse (go to sexual abuse tree)

- Any sexual act on a child by an adult caregiver or other adult in the household, or unable to rule out household member as alleged perpetrator
- Physical, behavioral, or suspicious indicators consistent with sexual abuse
- Sexual act(s) among siblings or other children living in the home
- Sexual exploitation
  - Caregiver actively involved child/youth in acts of exploitation or trafficking
  - Child/youth is exploited or trafficked by someone other than a caregiver.
- Threat of sexual abuse
  - Known or highly suspected sexual abuse perpetrator lives with child
  - Severely inappropriate sexual boundaries

## **B. Screening Decision**

- Evaluate out: No criteria are selected.
  - Cross-report to another agency is required.
    - For differential response counties, proceed to Step IV. A. Path Decision for Evaluate Out.*
    - For counties not implementing differential response, stop. No further SDM assessments required.*
- In-person response: One or more criteria are selected. *Proceed to Step III. Response Priority.*
  - Cross-report to another agency is required.

## Overrides

- In-person response. No criteria are selected, but report will be opened as a referral. No further SDM assessments required. Select all that apply.
  - Courtesy interview at law enforcement's request
  - Residency verification
  - Response required by court order
  - Local protocol (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
  - Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
  
- Evaluate out. One or more criteria are selected, but report will be evaluated out. No further SDM assessments required. Select all that apply.
  - Insufficient information to locate child/family
  - Another community agency has jurisdiction, AND the report does not allege abuse or neglect in out-of-home care to a dependent or ward child/youth. *(Cross-report should be made as required by state regulation.)*
  - Historical information only

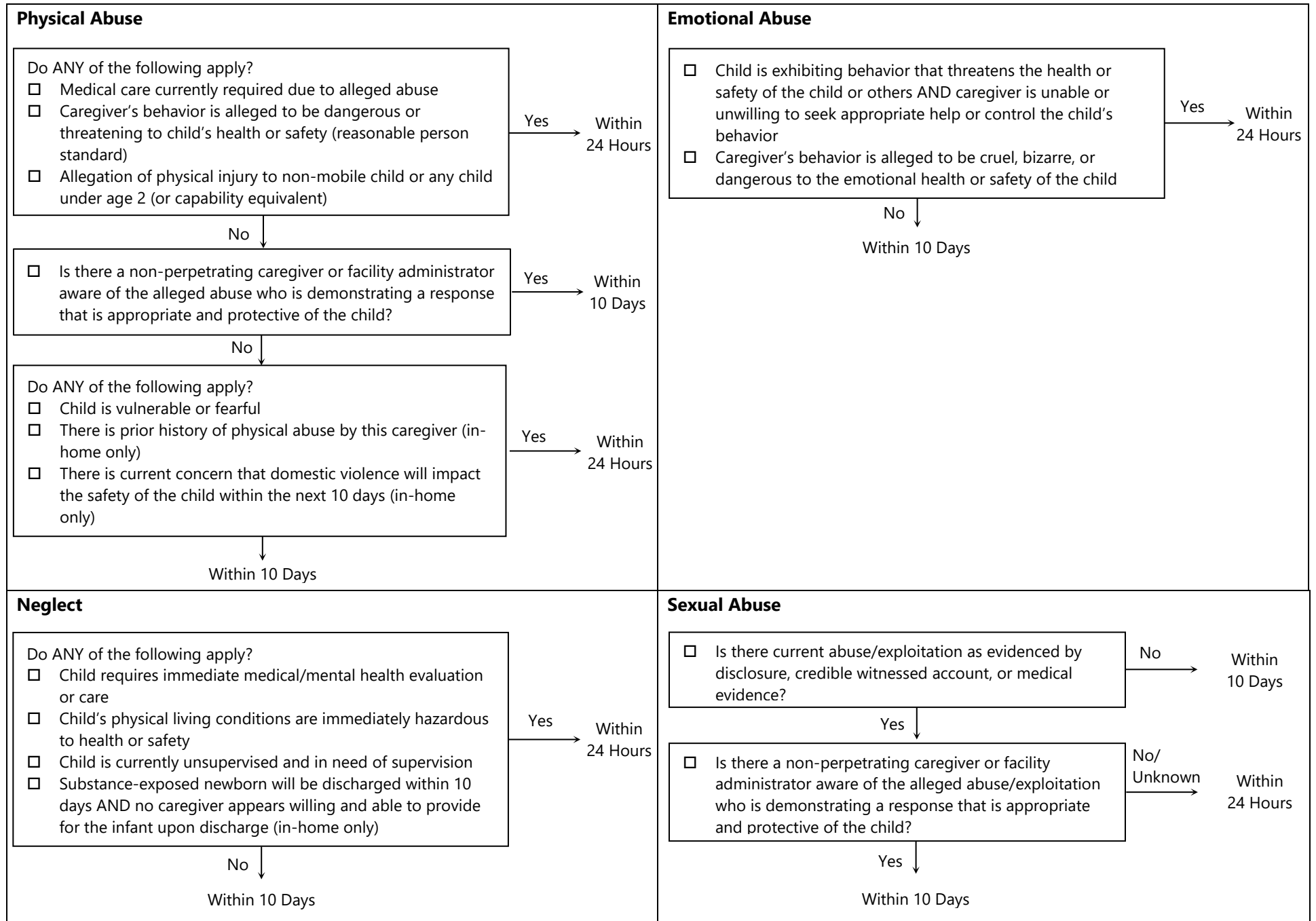
## STEP III. RESPONSE PRIORITY

Select if applicable.

- Allegation concerns maltreatment by current substitute care provider AND county policy requires response within 24 hours (automatic 24-hour)
- Child is already in custody (automatic 24-hour)

If not applicable, complete the appropriate decision tree(s).

## A. Decision Trees



**B. Overrides**

Policy

Increase to 24 hours whenever:

- Law enforcement requests an immediate response;
- Forensic considerations would be compromised by slower response; or
- There is reason to believe that the family may flee.

Decrease to 10 days whenever:

- Child safety requires a strategically slower response;
- The child is in an alternative safe environment; or
- The alleged incident occurred more than six months ago AND no maltreatment is alleged to have occurred in the intervening time period.

Discretionary

- Increase response level
- Decrease response level (requires supervisory approval)

Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

**Final Response Priority:**     24 hours     10 days

Do reported concerns involve out-of-home care of a dependent or ward child/youth?

- Yes
  - If response priority is 24 hours, the county where the approved or licensed facility is geographically located should respond to the report.
  - If response priority is 10 days, the report should be referred to the placing county as soon as possible.
- No

**STEP IV. PATH OF RESPONSE DECISION**

**A. Path Decision for Evaluate Out** (for differential response counties only)

Review the following factors/considerations when making the path decision. Select yes or no for each as applicable based on information reported and/or available at the time of referral. If unknown at the time of report, answer no.

- | Yes                   | No                    |  |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Prior investigations (indicate number of prior investigations)                     |
|                       |                       | <input type="checkbox"/> One or two  |
|                       |                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Three or more   |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Prior failed reunification, or death of a child not due to abuse or neglect        |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Current caregiver substance abuse, domestic violence, or mental health issues      |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Identified need that can be addressed with community services                      |
|                       |                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Clothing <input type="checkbox"/> Housing                 |
|                       |                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Counseling <input type="checkbox"/> Medical               |
|                       |                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Food                   |
|                       |                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Financial <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Other (specify): _____   |

**Path Decision (select one):**     No response     Path 1

**B. Path Decision for In-Person Response** (for differential response counties only)

Review the following factors/considerations when making the path decision. Select yes or no for each as applicable based on information reported and/or available at the time of referral. If unknown at the time of report, answer no.

(If final response priority is 24 hours)

Apply automatic Path 3?    Yes    No

Yes   No

- Likelihood of caregiver arrest or juvenile court involvement as a result of alleged incident
- Allegation involves sexual abuse
- Prior investigations (indicate number of prior investigations)
  - One or two
  - Three or more
- Prior child protective services (previous ongoing case)
- Four or more alleged child victims
- Caregiver has a current mental health issue
  - Primary caregiver
  - Secondary caregiver
  - Both caregivers
- Primary caregiver has a history of abuse/neglect as a child
- Any child with (select all that apply):
  - Mental health/behavioral problems
  - Developmental or physical disability
  - Medically fragile or failure to thrive
  - Positive toxicology screen at birth
  - Delinquency history
- Housing is unsafe or family is homeless
- Prior injury to a child due to abuse or neglect
- Domestic violence in the last 12 months
- Caregiver has a current substance abuse issue
  - Primary caregiver
  - Secondary caregiver
  - Both caregivers
- Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**Path Decision (select one):**    Path 2    Path 3