

SDM® REUNIFICATION ASSESSMENT

California Department of Social Services

r. 11/23

Case Name: _____ Case Number: _____

Date Completed: _____ Household Assessed: _____

Assessment Number: _____

To be completed for each household to which a child may be returned (e.g., father's home, mother's home).

A. REUNIFICATION RISK REASSESSMENT

R1. RISK LEVEL ON MOST RECENT REFERRAL (NOT REUNIFICATION RISK LEVEL OR RISK REASSESSMENT)

Answer	Score
<input type="radio"/> a. Low	0
<input type="radio"/> b. Moderate	3
<input type="radio"/> c. High	4
<input type="radio"/> d. Very High	5

R2. HAS THERE BEEN A NEW SUBSTANTIATION SINCE THE INITIAL RISK ASSESSMENT OR LAST REUNIFICATION ASSESSMENT?

Answer	Score
<input type="radio"/> a. No	0
<input type="radio"/> b. Yes	2

R3. CAREGIVER’S PROGRESS WITH CASE PLAN OBJECTIVES (AS INDICATED BY BEHAVIORAL CHANGE)

Compliance with/attendance of services is not sufficient to indicate behavioral change.

Select for primary and secondary caregiver if applicable.

Primary	Secondary	Answer	Score
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	a. Demonstrates new skills and behaviors consistent with all family case plan objectives and is actively engaged to maintain objectives	-2
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	b. Demonstrates some new skills and behaviors consistent with family case plan objectives and is actively engaged in activities to achieve objectives	-1
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	c. Minimally demonstrates new skills and behaviors consistent with case plan objectives and/or has been inconsistently engaged in obtaining the objectives specified in the case plan	0
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	d. Does not demonstrate new skills and behaviors consistent with case plan objectives and/or refuses engagement	4

TOTAL: _____

REUNIFICATION RISK LEVEL

Assign the risk level based on the following chart.

SCORE	RISK LEVEL
-2 to 1	<input type="radio"/> Low
2-3	<input type="radio"/> Moderate
4-5	<input type="radio"/> High
6+	<input type="radio"/> Very High

OVERRIDES

Policy Overrides

(Increases risk level to very high): **Indicate whether any of the following are true in the current review period.**

1. *Sexual abuse; perpetrator has access to child and has not successfully completed treatment*

- Yes
- No

2. *Non-accidental physical injury to an infant, and caregiver has not successfully completed treatment*

- Yes
- No

3. *Serious non-accidental physical injury requiring hospital or medical treatment, and caregiver has not successfully completed treatment*

- Yes
- No

4. *Death of a sibling as a result of abuse or neglect in the household, and caregiver has not successfully completed treatment*

- Yes
- No

Discretionary Override

Risk level may be adjusted up or down one level. Override Risk Level:

- Lower
- Higher

Requires reason:

Supervisor's approval: _____

FINAL REUNIFICATION RISK LEVEL

- Low
- Moderate
- High
- Very High

B. VISITATION PLAN EVALUATION

Evaluate compliance with the planned visitation frequency and the quality of visits, based on the worker's direct observation whenever possible and supplemented by observation of the child, reports by foster parents, etc. Complete for each child.

VISITATION FREQUENCY

- Totally (acceptable)
- Routine (acceptable)
- Sporadic
- Rarely or never

VISITATION QUALITY

- Strong (acceptable)
- Adequate (acceptable)
- Limited
- Destructive
- No visitation

OVERRIDE

- No override
- Policy: Visitation is supervised for safety. Describe reason for continued supervision:

- Discretionary (reason):

IF RISK LEVEL IS LOW OR MODERATE AND CAREGIVER HAS ATTAINED AN ACCEPTABLE LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE WITH VISITATION PLAN (VISITATION FREQUENCY MUST BE TOTALLY OR ROUTINE, AND VISITATION QUALITY MUST BE STRONG OR ADEQUATE), CONTINUE TO SECTION C, REUNIFICATION SAFETY ASSESSMENT.

IF RISK LEVEL IS HIGH OR VERY HIGH OR VISITATION IS UNACCEPTABLE, GO TO SECTION D, PLACEMENT/PERMANENCY PLAN GUIDELINES. DO NOT COMPLETE SECTION C.

C. REUNIFICATION SAFETY ASSESSMENT

SAFETY THREATS

1. Are any safety threats identified on the safety assessment that resulted in the child's removal still present?

- No; list the initial safety threats and describe below how the initial safety threat(s) was ameliorated or mitigated after the child's removal.
- Yes; list and describe safety threat(s) as it currently exists.

Describe details:

If yes, is there a safety intervention that can and will be incorporated into the case plan to mitigate these safety threats?

- No; there are no safety interventions available and appropriate to mitigate safety concerns if the child were to be reunified at this time.
- Yes; one or more safety interventions have been identified to mitigate safety concerns and allow reunification to proceed with an in-home safety plan in place.

Describe details:

2. Have any new safety threats been identified since the child's removal or are there any other circumstances or conditions present in the reunification household that, if the child were returned home, would present an immediate danger of serious harm?

- No
- Yes

Describe details:

If yes, is there a safety intervention(s) that can and will be incorporated into the case plan to mitigate these safety threats?

- No; there are no safety interventions available and appropriate to mitigate safety concerns if the child were reunified at this time.
- Yes; one or more safety interventions have been identified to mitigate safety concerns and allow reunification to proceed with an in-home safety plan in place.

Describe details:

SAFETY DECISION

Identify the safety decision by selecting the appropriate line below. This decision should be based on the assessment of all safety threats, safety interventions, and any other information known about the case. Select one line only.

- Safe.** No safety threats were identified at this time. Based on currently available information, there are no children likely to be in immediate danger of serious harm.
- Safe with plan.** One or more safety threats are present, and protective safety interventions have been planned or taken. Based on safety interventions, the child would be safe with a safety plan in place upon their return home. SAFETY PLAN REQUIRED.
- Unsafe.** One or more safety threats are present, and continued placement is the only protective intervention possible for one or more children. Without continued placement, one or more children will likely be in danger of immediate or serious harm.

D. PLACEMENT/PERMANENCY PLAN GUIDELINES

Complete one of the following trees for each child receiving family reunification services (FR), depending on whether they are over or under age 3, and enter the results in Section E. Complete for each child. Consult with supervisor and appropriate statutes and regulations.

DECISION TREE FOR CHILDREN UNDER AGE 3 AT TIME OF REMOVAL

1. Is the reunification risk level low or moderate?

- No. Go to question 2.
- Yes. Go to question 4.

2. Is this the six-month hearing or before?

- No. RECOMMENDATION: Pursue permanency alternative. Proceed to overrides below.
- Yes. Go to question 3.

3. Is the answer to question R3 above "a" or "b," or is visitation acceptable?

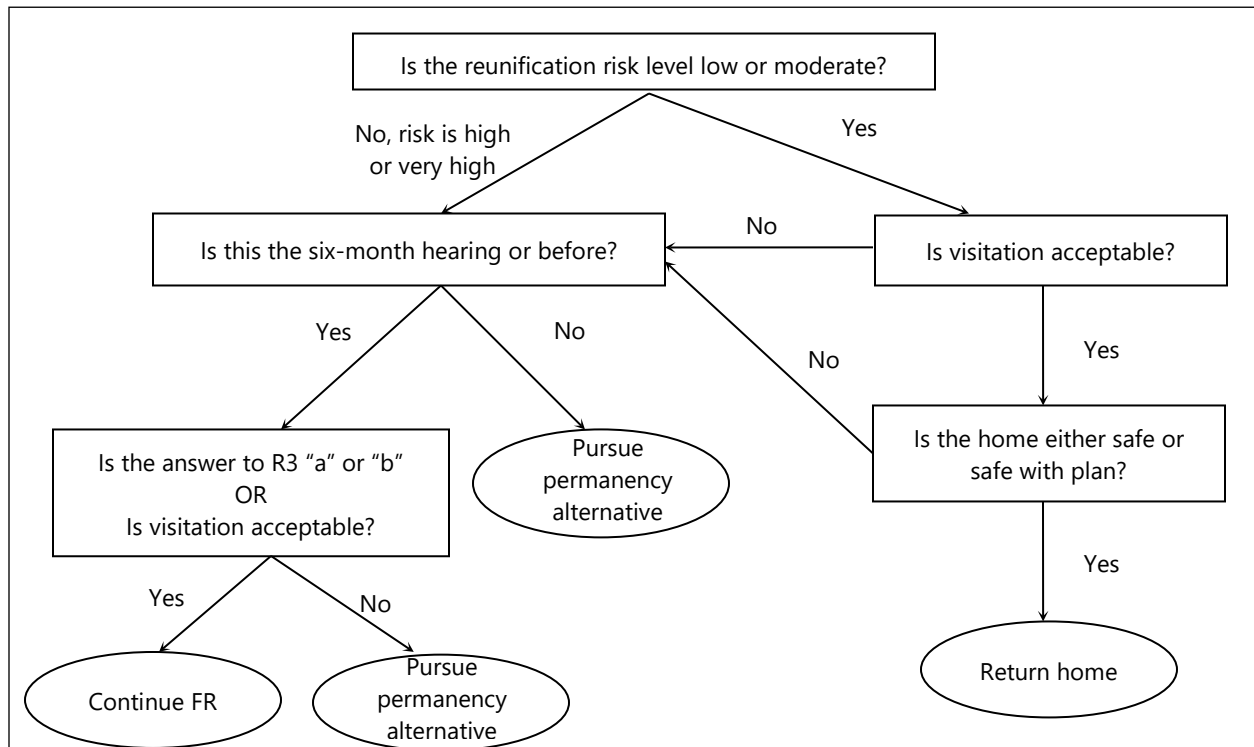
- No. RECOMMENDATION: Pursue permanency alternative. Proceed to overrides below.
- Yes. RECOMMENDATION: Continue FR services. Proceed to overrides below.

4. Is visitation acceptable?

- No. Go to question 2.
- Yes. Go to question 5.

5. Is the home SAFE or SAFE WITH PLAN?

- No. Go to question 2.
- Yes. RECOMMENDATION: Return Home.



DECISION TREE FOR CHILDREN AGE 3 OR OLDER AT TIME OF REMOVAL

1. Is the reunification risk level low or moderate?

- No. Go to question 2.
- Yes. Go to question 5.

2. Is this the six-month hearing or before?

- No. Go to question 3.
- Yes. RECOMMENDATION: Continue FR services.

3. Is this the 12-month hearing or before?

- No. RECOMMENDATION: Pursue permanency alternative. Proceed to overrides below.
- Yes. Go to question 4.

4. Is the answer to question R3 above "a" or "b" OR is visitation acceptable?

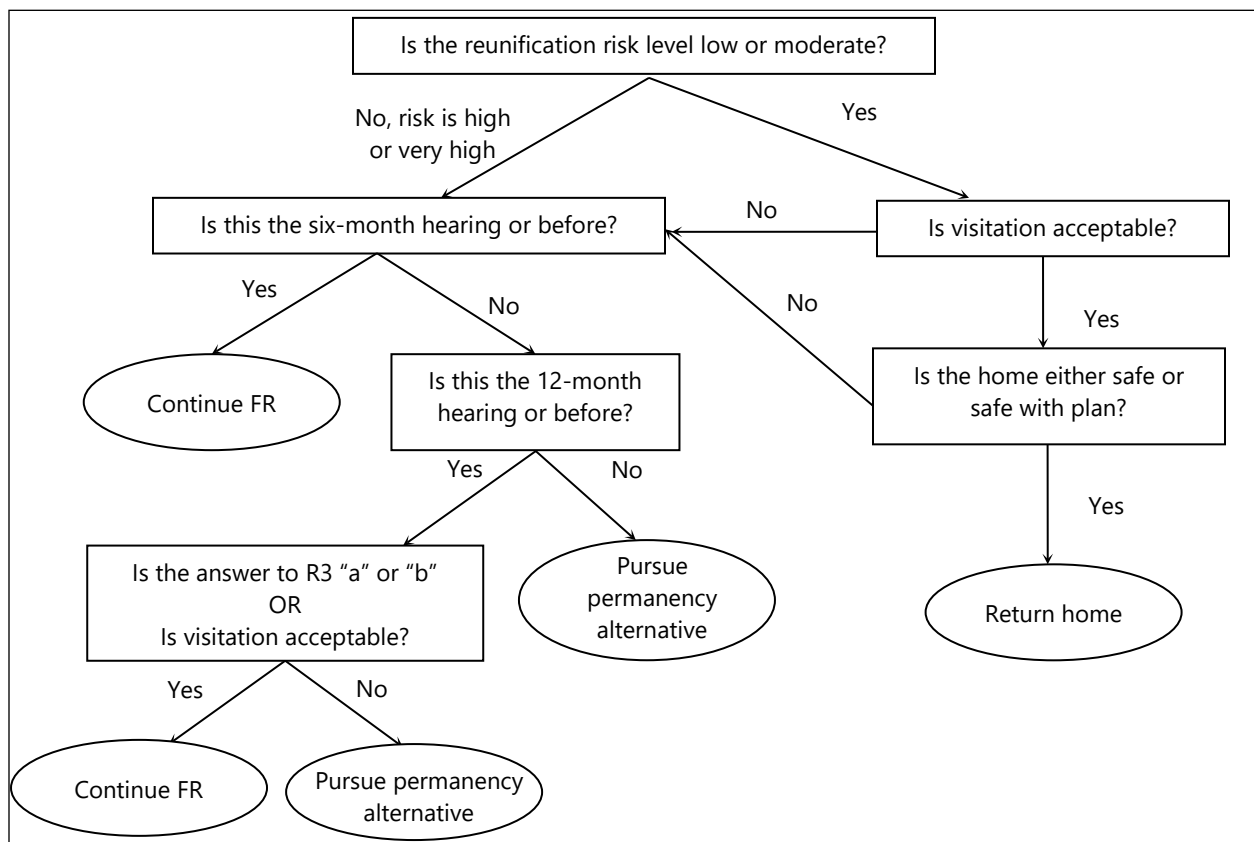
- No. RECOMMENDATION: Pursue permanency alternative. Proceed to overrides below.
- Yes. RECOMMENDATION: Continue FR services. Proceed to overrides below.

5. Is visitation acceptable?

- No. Go to question 2.
- Yes. Go to question 6.

6. Is the home SAFE or SAFE WITH PLAN?

- No, home is UNSAFE. Go to question 2.
- Yes. RECOMMENDATION: Return home.



OVERRIDES

- No override
- Policy override (pick one):
 - The tree leads to "Continue FR," but any of the following policy conditions exist (Change recommendation to "Pursue Permanency Alternative.")
 - The child has been in placement for 15 of the last 22 months.
 - The child was removed under WIC § 300 (g) (abandonment) and whereabouts of the caregiver are still unknown.
 - The caregiver has failed to contact and visit the child.
 - The caregiver has been convicted of a felony indicating parental unfitness based on WIC § 366.21 (e).
 - The tree leads to "Pursue permanency alternative," and it is the six-month hearing or before BUT there is a probability of reunification within six months. (Change recommendation to "Continue FR.")
- Discretionary override, change recommendation to:
 - Return home
 - Continue FR
 - Pursue permanency alternative

If any override selected, describe rationale:

E. RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY

For each child, document if the recommendation was to return home, continue FR services, or pursue permanency alternative. If pursuing permanency alternative, also document recommended permanent alternatives.

CHILD NAME	RECOMMENDATION: RETURN HOME	RECOMMENDATION: CONTINUE FR SERVICES	RECOMMENDATION: PURSUE PERMANENCY ALTERNATIVE
1.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

F. SIBLING GROUP

If at least one child under the age of 3 at the time of removal has a recommendation of "Pursue permanency alternative" and at least one other child has any other recommendation, will all children be considered a sibling group when making the final permanency plan recommendation?

- No
- Yes. The recommendation for all children will be "Pursue permanency alternative."

If the decision is to return any children home, complete a safety assessment to document the plan for any children for whom safety threats were identified.