

## Colorado Family Risk Assessment Instructions [1.29.16]

The Colorado Family Risk Assessment is to be completed for the household of the primary caregiver when the alleged abuse and/or neglect has occurred in that household. This assessment shall be completed with the family and documented in the state automated case management system within thirty (30) calendar days from the date the referral was received.

### HOUSEHOLD DEFINITION

The Colorado Family Risk Assessment is always completed on a household. When a child's caregivers do not live together, the child may be a member of two households. In this case, ***the assessment should be completed on the household of the alleged person responsible for abuse or neglect.*** This may be the child's primary residence if it is also the residence of the alleged person responsible for abuse or neglect, or it may be the household of a noncustodial caregiver if it is the residence of the alleged person responsible for abuse or neglect.

However, if the alleged person responsible for abuse or neglect is a relative (e.g., uncle, cousin, grandparent) and this person does not reside in the household and is not a caregiver to the child(ren), but was visiting the household at the time of the alleged incident, or if the alleged incident occurred outside of the household (e.g., at a family reunion, holiday gathering, family celebration), then the assessment should be completed on the household of the legal caregiver who was responsible at the time of the incident.

A **CAREGIVER** means a child's parent, stepparent, guardian, legal custodian, relative, or any other person who resides in the child's home or who is regularly in the child's home for the purpose of exercising care over the child. It also includes the spousal equivalent or domestic partner of a parent or legal guardian. A "caregiver" shall not include a person who is regularly in the child's home for the purpose of rendering care for the child if such person is paid for rendering care and is not related to the child.

**TIME FRAME** for risk assessment: A risk assessment is to be completed for anyone who is in the household at the time when you are closing or ending the assessment. The risk assessment is used to determine the risk to the child(ren) and the household.

Use the table below for guidance in determining which household is to be assessed when you are completing the Colorado Family Risk Assessment with a family.

<b><i>Circumstance</i></b>	<b><i>Primary Caregiver</i></b>	<b><i>Secondary Caregiver</i></b>
Two legal caregivers living together.	Provides the most child care. May be 51% of care.  TIE BREAKER: If precisely 50/50, select alleged person responsible for abuse or neglect. If both are alleged, select the caregiver contributing the most to the abuse/neglect. If there is no alleged person responsible, or if both contributed equally, pick either.	The other legal caregiver.
Single caregiver, no other adult in household.	The only caregiver.	None.



<b><i>Circumstance</i></b>	<b><i>Primary Caregiver</i></b>	<b><i>Secondary Caregiver</i></b>
Single caregiver and any other adult living in household.	The only legal caregiver.	Another adult in the household who contributes to the care of the child. If multiple, select the person who contributes most of the care. If none of the other adults contribute to child care, there is no secondary caregiver.
Two legal caregivers living separately (regardless of custody, equal or less than equal time).	The legal caregiver in the household where the incident occurred. If the incident occurred outside of the household, select the legal caregiver who was responsible at the time of the incident.	Another adult in the household who contributes to the care of the child. If multiple, select the person who contributes most of the care. If none of the other adults contribute to child care, there is no secondary caregiver.

## **RISK FACTORS**

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1. **Current Allegation Is for Neglect:** This includes any problem under assessment even if it was not identified in the original referral.

Select:

- A) “No (-1)” if the current allegation is not for neglect
- B) “Yes (1)” if the current allegation is for neglect or for both abuse and neglect

2. **Current Allegation Is for Abuse:** This includes any problem under assessment even if it was not identified in the original referral.

Select:

- A) “No (0)” if current allegation is not for abuse
- B) “Yes (2)” if current allegation is for abuse or both abuse and neglect

3. **Number of Prior Assessments:** The assessment history of each adult caregiver, primary and secondary, currently living in the home, shall be counted. Do not count assessments that were done when the caregivers were children. **Number of Prior Assessments** shall also include any assessment that was conducted from a different household.

### **3A. Neglect:**

Select:

- A) “None (0)” if no prior referrals were assigned for assessment
- B) “One (1)” if one prior referral was assigned for assessment
- C) “Two or more (2)” if two or more prior referrals were assigned for assessment

### **3B. Abuse:**

Select:

- A) “None (-1)” if no prior referrals were assigned for assessment
- B) “1-3 (1)” if one to three priors referral were assigned for assessment
- C) “4 or more (3)” if four or more priors referrals were assigned for assessment

4. **Prior Abuse Assessments:** The assessment history of each adult caregiver, primary or secondary, currently living in the home, shall be counted. Do not count assessments that were done when the caregivers were children. Count the number of abuse allegations, substantiated or not, that were assigned for assessment, as well as sexual-abuse allegations prior to the referral that resulted in the current assessment. This shall include any assessment that was conducted for a different household.

Select:

- A) "None (0)" if there have been no prior assessments for abuse
- B) "Abuse assessments (other than sexual abuse) (1)" if there have been assessments for abuse, other than sexual abuse, regardless of the number
- C) "Sexual abuse assessment (2)" if the prior assessments were only for sexual abuse
- D) "Both b and c (3)" if the prior assessments were for both sexual abuse and other abuse

5. **Prior Neglect Assessments:** The count includes both primary and secondary caregivers as adults, even if the assessments occurred in a different household.

Select:

- A) "None (-1)" if there have been no referrals assigned for assessment regarding neglect
- B) "Assessment only (1)" if any referrals were assigned for assessment and none substantiated for neglect prior to the report resulting in the current assessment
- C) "One substantiated assessment (2)" if one of the assessments was substantiated for neglect
- D) "Two or more substantiated assessment (3)" if there were two or more substantiated assessments for neglect.

6. **Characteristics of Children in the Household:** A concern might be indicated by regular visits to a therapist, attendance in a special classroom for behavioral problems, or prescriptions for psychoactive medications.

Select:

- A) "Not applicable [Abuse (0), Neglect (0)]" if none of the children in the household have mental health concerns, behavioral problems, or a physical disability
- B) "Mental health/behavioral problems [Abuse (2), Neglect (1)]" if any of the children has a mental health concern, a behavioral problem, or both
- C) "Physical disability [Abuse (2), Neglect (0)]" if any of the children has a physical disability only
- D) "Both b and c [Abuse (4), Neglect (1)]" if any of the children has mental health concerns or behavior problems and a physical disability

7. **Number of Children in Household:** Count the number of children who are in the home at any given time. For example, if two children reside in the home full-time, and two other children spend weekends in the home, the total count would be four.

Select:

- A) "Two or fewer (-1)" if two or fewer children are in the home at any given time
- B) "Three or more (1): if three or more children are in the home at any given time

**8. Age of Youngest Child in the Household:** Consider the ages of all the children who are in the home at any time.

Select:

- A) “Three or older (0)” if the youngest child is three or older
- B) “Two or younger (1)” if the youngest child is two or younger

**9. Age of Primary Caregiver:** This question refers to the age of the primary caregiver at the time of the assessment. This section does not address the secondary caregiver, if there is one.

Select:

- A) 26 or older (-1)” if the primary caregiver is 26 or older
- B) “25 or younger (0)” if the primary caregiver is 25 or younger

**10. Household Has Previously Received Child Protective Services:** Service history includes voluntary or court-ordered family services or Family Preservation Services, but *does not include* delinquency services or child protection assessments that did not result in an open services case.

Select:

- A) “No [Neglect (0), Abuse (0)]” if neither caregiver has prior history or a prior assessment that resulted in case services as an adult
- B) “Yes—previously received services [Neglect (1), Abuse (2)]” if either caregiver has previously received child protective services or is currently receiving services as a result of a prior assessment as an adult, but no child was ever removed by CPS
- C) “Yes—prior CPS child removal from household [Neglect (3), Abuse (2)]” if either caregiver has had a CPS child removal from his or her home, as an adult, prior to the current assessment, even if that child is no longer residing in the home

**11. Primary Caregiver Has History of Abuse or Neglect as a Child:** Abuse includes physical, sexual, and any other type of abuse.

Select:

- A) “No (0)” if primary caregiver has no history of abuse or neglect as a child, based on credible statements by the caregiver or others
- B) “Yes (2)” if primary caregiver has a history of abuse or neglect as a child, based on credible statements by the caregiver or others

**12. Primary Caregiver Was Placed in Protective Services as a Child:**

Select:

- A) “No (0)” if the primary caregiver was not placed in Protective Services as a child, as evidenced by Trails data and/or credible reports from the caregiver or others
- B) “Yes (3)” if the primary caregiver was placed in Protective Services as a child, as evidenced by Trails data and/or credible reports from the caregiver or others



13. **Primary Caregiver Has a Substance Use Problem:** The primary caregiver has a current alcohol/drug use problem, evidenced by use causing conflict in home, extreme behavior/attitudes, financial difficulties, frequent illness, job absenteeism, job changes or unemployment, driving under the influence, traffic violations, criminal arrests, disappearance of household items (especially those easily sold), or life organized around substance use.

Select:

- A) “No (0)” if the primary caregiver has no substance use problem
- B) “Yes (1)” if the primary caregiver has a current substance use problem

14. **Secondary Caregiver Has a Substance Use Problem:** The secondary caregiver has a current alcohol/drug use problem, evidenced by use causing conflict in home, extreme behavior/attitudes, financial difficulties, frequent illness, job absenteeism, job changes or unemployment, driving under the influence, traffic violations, criminal arrests, disappearance of household items (especially those easily sold), or life organized around substance use.

Select:

- A) “N/A—no secondary caregiver (0)” if there is no secondary caregiver in the household
- B) “No problem with drugs or alcohol (-1)” if the secondary caregiver has neither an alcohol nor a drug use problem
- C) “Alcohol only (1)” if alcohol use is the only issue and there are no problems with any other drugs
- D) “Other drugs or drugs and alcohol combined (2)” if the secondary caregiver is using drugs other than alcohol, or *along with* alcohol, such as cocaine, marijuana, heroin, barbiturates, or prescription medications

15. **Recent or History of Domestic Violence in Household:** Domestic violence includes any physical assault, pattern of verbal harassment/threats, intimidation, or coercive control. Include only domestic violence between caregivers or between a caregiver and another adult household member. Do not include caregiver-child or child-child violence.

Select:

- A) “No (0)” if there is no history of domestic violence indicated through statements by the caregiver or other that indicate a presence or history of domestic violence, Trails documentation, or court/police records
- B) “Yes (1)” if there is a history of domestic violence indicated through statements by the caregiver or others that indicate a presence or history of domestic violence, Trails documentation, or court/police records; if a previous risk assessment had indicated “Yes” to this question, this shall be reviewed and considered

16. **Caregiver(s) Involved in Disruptive/Volatile Adult Relationships:** Examples are criminal activities which are harmful to domestic functioning or child care, domestic disturbances or conflict, or caregiver(s) and/or other adults fail to work together, cooperate, or problem solve, which has a negative effect upon family member relationships, including serious custody battles that have negative impact on the child. This includes, but is not limited to, domestic violence.

Select:

- A) “No (0)” if the caregiver(s) are not involved in disruptive or volatile relationships
- B) “Yes (1)” if volatile relationships exist between caregivers or with other adults in or outside of the household that have negative impact on or disrupt family functioning

**17. Caregiver(s) Has History of Mental Health Treatment:** Treatment received is indicated if credible or verifiable statements by the caregivers or others indicate that one or both caregivers were recommended for or received outpatient or inpatient treatment for emotional problems at any time.

Select:

- A) “No, neither caregiver (0)” if neither caregiver has received, was recommended for, nor is currently receiving mental health treatment
- B) “Either caregiver (1)” if either caregiver has received, was recommended for, or is currently receiving mental health treatment
- C) “Both caregivers (2)” if both caregivers have received, were recommended for, or are currently receiving mental health treatment

**18. Caregiver(s) Have History of Homelessness:**

Select:

- A) “No (0)” if neither caregiver has had multiple periods of homelessness at any time in the past, regardless of the household’s housing status at the time of assessment. The family has not experienced homelessness if the family is living/has lived in a motel and the rent is/was paid weekly, or if a family is/was living in a relative’s home while looking for more stable housing.
- B) “Yes (3)” if either caregiver has had multiple periods of homelessness at any time in the past, regardless of the household’s housing status at the time of assessment. Homeless constitutes living in a homeless shelter, staying in a motel with a voucher from a homeless coalition, or sleeping on friend’s/family member’s couch.

**19. Caregiver(s) Provides Supervision Inconsistent with Child’s Needs:**

Select:

- A) “No (0)” if the caregiver(s) provide supervision consistent with the child(ren)’s needs
- B) “Yes (1)” if the caregiver’s oversight of routine child activity threatens the child(ren)’s well-being or results in harm to the child(ren). Examples would be leaving younger and/or vulnerable child(ren) alone, leaving any child(ren) younger than mid-adolescence alone overnight, or leaving poisonous substances or dangerous objects within reach of small child(ren).