

State of Illinois
Department of Children and Family Services

**SAFETY PLAN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR
PARENTS & GUARDIANS**

As Parents/Guardians, you have the right to:

- Only be asked to agree to a safety plan if there has been a determination by DCFS, approved by a DCFS supervisor, that DCFS possesses legally sufficient grounds for protective custody;
- Be informed in writing of the basis for the DCFS determination that there is an immediate and imminent threat of moderate to severe harm to your child(ren) as set forth in the safety plan;
- Refuse to enter into a safety plan arrangement for your child(ren), understanding that DCFS will then assess whether protective custody is necessary to protect your child(ren) from immediate harm;
- Provide information to DCFS that relates to the basis for finding the presence of an immediate safety threat;
- Inform DCFS of circumstances that the parent(s) or caregiver(s) believe mitigates or reduces the identified safety threat;
- Voluntarily participate in the development of a safety plan, including identifying conditions that would protect your child(ren) from harm while allowing the family to continue living together and/or identifying temporary caregivers for your child(ren);
- Request the safety plan be modified at any time and have the modification to the safety plan agreed to or approved if the modification continues to assure the safety of the child(ren);
- Terminate the safety plan at any time, knowing that if you do so without the agreement of DCFS, the investigator will evaluate whether DCFS continues to have grounds for protective custody and if grounds continue to exist, DCFS can take protective custody if necessary to protect the child(ren) from immediate harm or offer a different safety plan that adequately protects the child(ren);
- Receive a copy of the signed safety plan and any subsequent modifications of the safety plan;
- Maintain contact with your child, as long as that contact does not threaten the immediate safety of the child from moderate to severe harm;
- Have a supervisor conduct a review every five days to assure that there continues to be a basis to take protective custody of the child(ren) and of the continued need for the safety plan;

- Retain all of your rights to direct your child(ren)'s upbringing, including directing a specific individual to be a supervisor or monitor of the safety plan if such person is deemed qualified by DCFS;
- Know the length of time a safety plan will be in place, as safety plans are intended to be temporary, short term efforts to ensure the safety of your child(ren);
- Know that if the safety plan is violated, DCFS will evaluate whether it continues to have grounds to take protective custody of your child(ren) and if grounds continue to exist, DCFS can take protective custody if necessary to protect the child(ren) from immediate harm;
- An opportunity to consult with legal counsel prior to signing any safety plan form or regarding any safety plan; and
- Contact the DCFS Advocacy Office at 800-232-3798 or 217-524-2029 to seek assistance or make a complaint.

As Parents/Guardians, you have the responsibility to:

- Continue to provide medical care and financial support for your child(ren) if someone else is providing temporary care under a safety plan;
- Decide whether to provide information to the DCFS investigator/caseworker about your mental health, substance use, and domestic violence issues or any other circumstances which might impact the safety of your child(ren) with the understanding that the decision not to provide information may be a factor that DCFS considers in determining whether DCFS possesses legally sufficient grounds to take protective custody of your child(ren) or request a safety plan;
- Inform the investigator/caseworker immediately if you have any concerns or problems with the safety plan requirements;
- Notify the investigator/caseworker of changes to your contact information to ensure you can be reached if a decision is needed regarding your child(ren);
- Ensure the person providing temporary care for your child(ren) has your current contact information in the event parental consent is needed for medical treatment or other emergencies;
- Inform DCFS if there are custody orders in place which may be impacted by the safety plan; and
- Notify schools and/or daycare providers of any changes there may be with respect to coordinating the child(ren)'s attendance and drop-off or pick-up schedules.