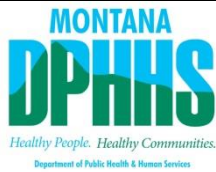


## Department of Public Health and Human Services – Procedure



**Category:**

*Child and Family Services Division*

**Procedure:**

*Prevention Plan (PRO)*

**Procedure  
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### 1. **PURPOSE**

Child and Family Services Division (CFSD) is committed to prevention efforts across Montana. CFSD has made significant efforts to identify, increase and implement evidence-based prevention models.

Children’s safety is paramount and is central to child well- being. Children must be protected from the trauma of abuse and neglect. When safe to do so, children must also be protected from the trauma of separation from their families by effectively utilizing prevention services.

CFSD implementation of Prevention Plans are to improve outcomes for children and families in the following areas specific to their needs:

1. Improved parenting behaviors.
2. Improved parenting knowledge.
3. Improved emotional responsiveness.
4. Improved parent/caregiver collaboration.
5. Reduction in family conflict and improved skills in resolving family conflict.
6. Reduction in symptomatic problem behavior exhibited by children and adolescents.
7. Reduction in substance abuse.
8. Reduction in child maltreatment.
9. Reduction in other mental health symptoms, including trauma, anxiety, and depression.

Overall CFSD expect that the outcomes provided by the prevention plan will result in parents being better able to safely care for their children in their homes or with kin, thus preventing foster care placements when possible.

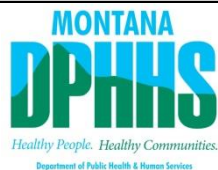
### 2. **SCOPE**

Prevention Plans can be offered to a parent when either:

1. A report has been made to Centralized Intake on a parent for abuse or neglect, and a Child Protection Specialist (CPS) has completed the necessary assessments outlined in the Investigation of Field Reports Procedure determining there is risk of impending danger and the child can remain in the parents’ home under an In-Home Safety Plan with resources to mitigate the safety impending danger concerns; or
2. A parent, or CPS on behalf of the parent, calls Centralized Intake to Request for Service identifying they are willing to participate in prevention services.

Prevention Plans will be in place no less than three months and reviewed every thirty

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days.

The Prevention Plan will be closed when the:

1. Impending danger has been mitigated.
2. Parents' protective capacities are strengthened to remedy the impending danger;
3. Parent, or kin caregiver, is able to safely care for the child; and,
4. Child no longer is at risk of entering foster care based on the circumstances and characteristics of their parent, or kin caregiver.

### 3. RESPONSIBILITY

The Child Protection Specialist (CPS) is responsible for ensuring that the requirements contained in this procedure are met. There are multiple Montana Code Annotated (MCA) statutes and federal regulations listed throughout this procedure. The CPS is responsible for reading and understanding these statutes and regulations.

The Child Protection Specialist Supervisor (CPSS) is responsible for supervising and supporting the CPS to ensure the CPS understands and meets their responsibilities within this procedure. Should the CPS be unavailable to complete the requirements of the procedure, the CPSS will then ensure that the requirements contained this procedure are met.

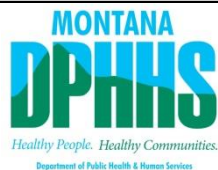
### 4. DEFINITIONS

*MT Definitions Hyperlink*

### 5. PROCEDURE:

1. CFSD will utilize the SAMS model to assess and determine if a child is at substantial risk of entering foster and can remain safely in the home as long as prevention services are provided preventing the entry of the child into foster care. The CPS will:
  - a. Identify if impending danger is present.
  - b. Determine if an In-Home Safety Plan can be put in place.
2. CPS will engage the parent by taking a team approach in discussing the option of a Prevention Plan by identifying:
  - a. What prevention services, the parent needs to be able to mitigate the impending danger.
  - b. What natural resources, the parent has access to assist with mitigating the impending danger.

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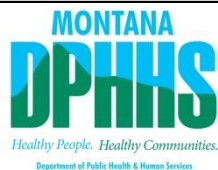
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3. CPS will then offer a Prevention Plan outlining tasks and services for the parent by completing the Prevention Plan form, obtaining signatures of all parties involved and assisting in setting up prevention services.
  - a. In conjunction with the In-Home Safety Plan, the Prevention Plan will coordinate efforts to address the imminent risk of removal by:
    - i. Clearly stating the objectives.
    - ii. Creating measurable outcomes by outlining the required tasks related to the safety and well-being of the child.
      1. These tasks will be observable behavior changes the parent can demonstrate to mitigate the safety concern(s).
    - iii. Identify the prevention service(s) utilized to increase the parent’s protective capacities and skills to mitigate the impending danger, and assist the parent in safely caring for their child.
    - iv. Identifying timelines and expectations surrounding:
      1. Reviews of Prevention Plan.
      2. Assessment of Services.
      3. Case Closure Determination.
  
4. If the parent denies the Prevention Plan, the CPS will immediately staff with their supervisor to assess and determine if there is a need for further intervention. If CPS and CPSS determine the need to pursue legal intervention, the CPS will follow the Pre-Adjudication Legal Intervention Procedure.
  
5. While the Prevention Plan is in place, CPS will be required at first to complete in-person visits with the parent and child on a weekly basis through the first thirty days of the Prevention Plan.
  - a. As service providers report improvements in the behaviors that impact imminent risk of removal and these improvements are observable by the CPS, face to face contact may gradually decrease to no less than once a month.
  - b. The In-Home Safety Plan, along with the Prevention Plan, are reviewed every thirty days in accordance with the Case Management Procedure that outlines how to conduct:
    - i. Ongoing comprehensive case mining and assessments; and,
    - ii. Visits with parents, children, natural supports, and prevention service providers.
  
6. When a CPS and parent review the Prevention Plan and determine the circumstances leading to the need for a Prevention Plan have been resolved, the CPS will meet in person with their immediate CPSS and complete a Case Closure Assessment to determine:
  - a. Impending danger has been mitigated.

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- b. Parents' protective capacities are strengthened to remedy the impending danger.
- c. Parent is able to safely care for the child.
- d. Child no longer is at risk of entering foster care based on the circumstances and characteristics of their parent, or kin caregiver.

- 7. Upon the determination to close the case and approval by the CPSS, the CPS will meet in person with the parent to inform them of case closure and link community resources.

### 6. RELATED DOCUMENTATION

Investigation of Field Reports  
Case Management Procedure  
Pre-Adjudication Legal Intervention Procedure  
Prevention Plan Form

### 7. RELATED FEDERAL OR STATE GUIDANCE (IF APPLICABLE)

CFSD will reference the specific Montana Code Annotated (MCA) statute in Title 41 from the list below in the procedures to which they apply:

M.C.A § 41-3-101  
M.C.A § 41-3-302  
M.C.A § 52-2-601  
M.C.A § 52-6-603  
M.C.A § 52-5-126  
M.C.A § 52-5-127