

# Tailored Dispositional Conditions for Return Desk Guide

A tailored dispositional condition for return is intended to address identified safety threats and should identify parental/caregiver behaviors that must change in order for safety to be managed. The condition should be measurable, easily understood by the parent/caregiver and focus on protective capacities to ensure sustainable change.

## Key Elements of Conditions

**Culturally Competent:** Does the condition take into consideration the culture, race and/or ethnicity of the family?

**Least Intrusive:** Is the level of disruption to the family necessary to control for safety of the child(ren)?

## SMART Goal Writing Model for Conditions

**S**pecific: What impending danger threat is the condition addressing?

**M**easurable: Does the condition make it clear what behavior needs to change?

**A**chievable: Is it possible for the parent/caregiver to successfully meet the condition? How will it be known when progress is made?


**R**ealistic: Is the condition written in a way that the parent/caregiver understands?

**T**imely: Is the condition related to a behavior change that can begin or occur promptly?

## Preparation Questions for Drafting Conditions

- 1) What are the identified Impending Danger Threat(s)?
- 2) What protective capacities does the parent/caregiver need to enhance?
- 3) What needs to change so the child(ren) is safe?
- 4) What behavioral changes does the parent/caregiver need to make?

## Resource

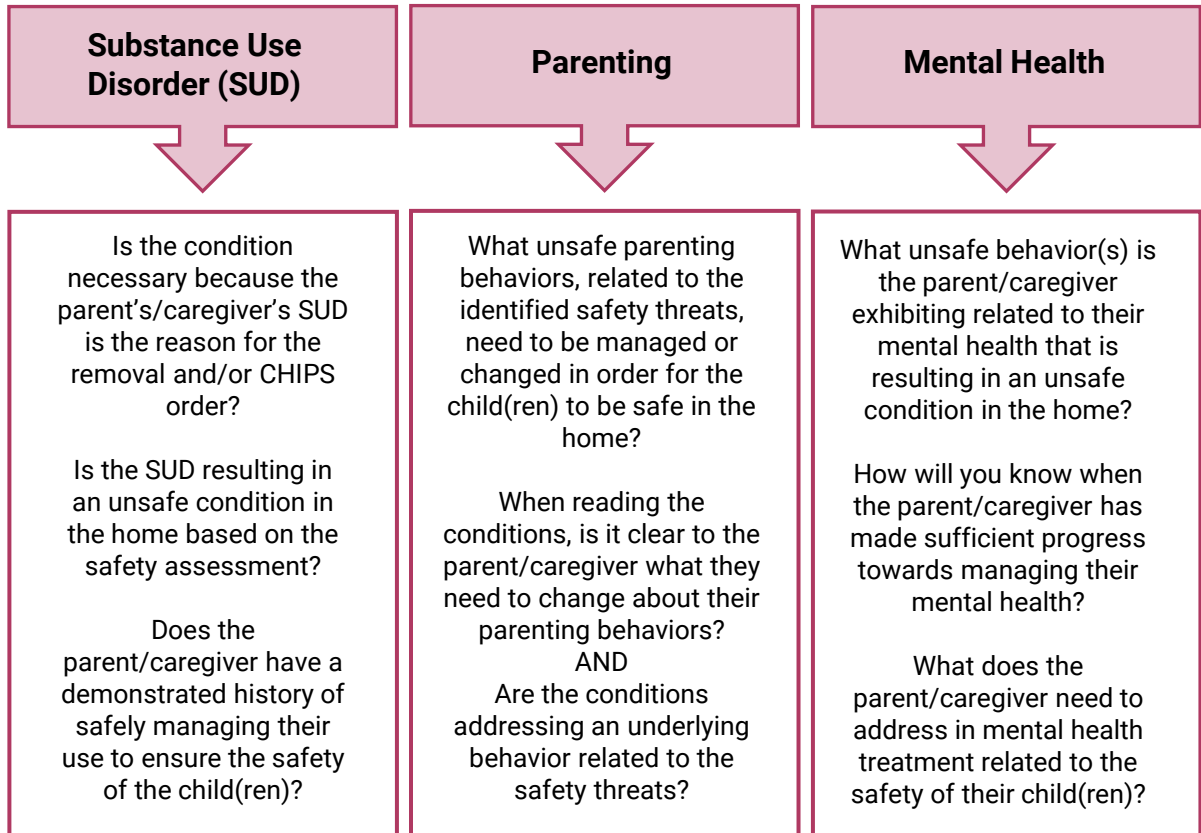
 **The WI DCF Child Protective Services Safety Intervention Standards** provides

guidance to help determine if a condition is related to a safety threat.

See *Safety Appendix on Impending Danger* and *Safety Appendix on Parent/Caregiver Protective Capacities*

## Critical Thinking

Below are examples of some common categories of dispositional conditions, along with a series of questions to think critically about how to determine if the condition is necessary. Please note this list is not exhaustive.



## Questions to Consider when Finalizing Recommendations for the Dispositional Report

- Are the conditions written in a way that support reunification with an in-home safety plan as soon as safety threats can be controlled in the home?
- Is it clear what the parent/caregiver is expected to do in order to have their child returned and are those expectations related to the safety threats identified?
- Is the intent of each condition to change a behavior as opposed to expecting compliance with a service?
- Are the conditions written so that it is clear what each parent/caregiver is expected to change?

\* If the answer to these four questions is "no," it is important to consider if/why the condition is needed.