

Chapter 55 – Non incident focused assessments

Age of child

Young children are physically vulnerable; children under the age of three have little to no capacity for self protection.

Physical vulnerability of child

Children with significant physical disabilities; children who are non-verbal and/or non-ambulatory have a compromised ability to participate in their own protection.

Pattern of referrals

Similar issues that persist that appear to either be progressively getting worse (substance abuse is becoming a more predominant theme is an example)

Mental health challenges

In combination with pattern and age of the child, a parent's mental health is considered in so far as it may be impacting their ability to care for the child.

DOC involvement and DOC history

If we have a pattern of referrals that allude to children being harmed or neglected without a specific incident/event, the DOC history is used to see if there is a history of criminal activity similar to that alluded to in the reported pattern.

Behavior of the parent

Does the parent's behavior suggest that they are significantly out of control or that there is a presence of significant emotional dysregulation that places the child at significant risk of injury?

Prior TPR / Significant Involvement with the Family Services

There are times when a family has been or is involved with the Division. If the case is currently open for on-going involvement and the Division receives a new report that would not meet criteria for opening under Chapter 49 (this includes prenatal exposure cases) but the case would meet criteria for opening a Chapter 55 assessment, it will be accepted and the appropriate worker to conduct the assessment will be determined at the district level.