**Protective Action Guide**

**Protective Actions** secure the immediate safety of children when they are in danger. Present danger is immediate, significant, and clearly observable severe harm or threat of harm requiring an immediate protective response. **Protective Actions are not voluntary. If parents reject the protective action, CA must take the legal action necessary in order to keep the child safe.**

**Protective Actions:**

- Control present danger immediately
- Are intended as short-term until sufficient information can be gathered and analyzed to determine the need for an ongoing safety plan
- May involve parents
- Do not rely or expect the parent or caregiver to provide protection
- Include suitable and reliable relatives, kin, neighbors, and family supports who will take action to keep the child safe
- Include timeframes and logistics, and details about who will do what and when

**Protective Action Questions:**

- What is the specific present danger being managed and controlled by the protective action?
- Who are the family's natural supports? Are they willing and able to provide protection for the child?
- Are the identified resources and supports sufficient and available to control the present danger twenty-four hours a day until the safety assessment is completed and a safety plan can be implemented?
- Can an in-home protective action be established?
- What is the role of the CA social worker?
- Does the child need a medical evaluation or immediate medical care? Why? How is this communicated to the parents? How will this be carried out?
- How will the protective action work? How will the safety of the child be monitored and how often?
- What is the determined protective action? Is the protective action explained to the family? What is their response to the protective action?

**Protective Action examples include but are not limited to:**

- Family resources/supports capable of carrying out protective actions
- Any source within the family that can serve to control the present danger
- Addressing concrete and immediate needs that create the present danger, e.g., housing, food, supervision
- Protective custody
- Child placed with unlicensed caregiver
- Child placed with licensed caregiver

*Child Safety Framework*
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