

What is a Danger Statement?

Danger Statements clearly identify who is worried, what they are worried about and what might happen if the parent or guardian's behaviour does not change as well as the impact this could have on the child or young person.

Danger statements should be developed from the past harm and complicating factors in the assessment and set out the reasons why we are working with the family in clear and simple language. You might need multiple danger statements for each issue, but try not to have more than three.

How to write a Danger Statement

Who is worried?	Explain who is worried e.g. Louise from Children's Services – don't make this a cast list of thousands and always identify a named person rather than an organisation.
What are they worried about?	Explain what has happened in the past to make us worried (the past harm a child has suffered) or the behaviours that pose a risk that could harm a child in the future. Be specific and factual.
What is the impact?	Describe the potential impact on the child or young person. Apply your theoretical knowledge here. Explain what this means in the short and long term if nothing changes.

Do

- ✓ Write your danger statement using simple, everyday language that the family will understand.
- ✓ Consider the strengths and safety you have identified and mention this in the danger statement.

Don't

- ✗ Use professional terminology or jargon, like 'neglect' or 'domestic abuse' be specific and explain what this looks like.



Guide to Safety Goals



What is a Safety Goal?

There should be a Safety Goal for each Danger Statement.

The Safety Goal shows the family, their safety network and the involved professionals, what we need to see before we can close the case or step it down to early help.

It shows everyone who is involved what we are working towards.

How to write a Safety Goal

What we need to see to know things are safe	<p>What will professionals see that tells them that things are good enough?</p> <p>What will be happening? How will we know the child/ young person will be safe in their parents care?</p>
Who is involved?	<p>Say who will be involved in what the safety looks like (e.g. include relatives or members of the safety network where applicable).</p>

Do

- ✓ Use the same language as the family where possible e.g. Nanna, Mam, Gran.
- ✓ Where possible, say how long you will need to see the plan working, or the changes maintained, in order to be satisfied that the children will be safe.

Don't

- ✗ Include engagement with services within your safety goal, this doesn't mean that things have changed.
- ✗ Safety goals needs to be updated as the situation changes but don't make unnecessary changes that move the goalposts for families.



Danger Statement Example

What we need to see to know things are safe	James and Coleen from Holywell Children's Services...
What are they worried about?	<p>...are worried because over their life Jill (6), Jane (4) and Jimmy (2) haven't always got the everyday care they need.</p> <p>Sometimes they go hungry, they have been dirty, they get sick and are not taken to the doctor, and they are living in a house that is dirty and makes them sick.</p>
What is the impact?	James can see that Mum Marie has made changes like cleaning up the house and getting her sister Angie to help with this, but he is still worried that maybe the kids won't get food, be kept clean, be in a clean house and taken to the doctor like they need if they return home.

Safety Goal Example

Who is involved?	James and Coleen from Holywell Children's Services want Marie and the children to be together because they can see how hard Marie is working to be the best Mum she can be. For this to happen they need to see Marie and some support people she chooses, like Angie.
What we need to see to know things are safe?	Together with James, they need to make a simple plan that the kids can understand about how the children get looked after every day so they are always fed, clean, their rooms and beds are fresh, the house is clean, and they go to the doctor when they are sick. James needs to see that this plan is working for (<i>agreed period of time</i>).