

Signs of Safety



1. What is Signs of Safety?

Signs of Safety is a child protection framework.

It is used in over 70 Jurisdictions across the world including a number in Wales.

The framework is hailed as being developed by practitioners for practitioners.

It is a strengths-based model.

The framework uses assessment, danger statements and safety goals.

It is a framework that families feel they understand, are included in, and become more able to understand why Social Services are involved.

2. When can I use Signs of Safety?

Signs of Safety risk assessment can be used when safeguarding concerns have been raised.

The Risk Assessment can be used to:

- Gather information
- Analysis Information
- Make a Judgement

When starting the assessment look at what has happened now and what has happened in the past; first, last, worst and Frequency.

Signs of well being can be used for children in need of care and support.

Please refer to the padlet for a signs of well-being assessment. <https://padlet.com/scwdp/signs-of-safety->

3. How can I use Signs of Safety?

Social Workers can use the assessment as a risk assessment to map:

What is already working well, what are you worried about and Next steps.

Social Workers will assess complicating factors, existing strengths, harm, and existing safety.

Remember harm has two elements- Behaviour and Impact.

Think about the difference between safety and strengths

This will lead to a danger statement and safety goals – the book ends of a safety plan.

Safety scales help make a judgment of the seriousness of the situation.

7. What next?

Meet with your Signs of Safety Champion and ask them to show you the tools.

Keep an eye out for any training opportunities and attend any mandatory training required.

If you are unsure of Signs of Safety contact Sarah Wynn.

Talk to your supervisor during supervision about how to use Signs of Safety or Signs of Wellbeing in your practice.



Adapted from 7 minute briefing created by Hywel Dda University Health Board

4. What tools do I need?

Risk Assessment and Next steps - Social Workers will use the mapping process and practice tool (the three columns)

Words and Picture - explanation with parents to help them explain the outcome of the assessment to the children.

Safety Plan – Social Work to help family prepare a safety plan

6. Training

A training programme is underway being delivered by Bev Edwards Licensed Signs of Safety Consultant.

Practitioners will need to attend a two-day Risk Assessment and Next Steps Training before completing the five-day training.

Each team will have a Signs of Safety champion in their team.

5. How can I use it with children and young people?

It is important that you have time with children and young people to develop a working relationship with them.

My three houses can be found on the padlet -

<https://padlet.com/scwdp/signs-of-safety-ij74zu12psq2m60>

There are several direct work tools to use with children and young people on Community Care inform –

<https://www.ccinform.co.uk/learning-tools/directory-of-tools/>