	Division/Section	Child Welfare
	Chapter No./Name	4 – Child Protective Services (CPS)
	Part No./Name	Appendix 4-B.1 Tiered Validity Decision Matrix
	Section No./Name	Appendix 4-B.1 Tiered Validity Decision Matrix
	Document No./Name	Appendix 4-B.1 Tiered Validity Decision Matrix
	Effective Date	November 15, 2024


I. STATEMENT OF POLICY

It is the policy of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to have a Tiered Validity System that determines an individual's placement on the State Central Registry (SCR) as a result of a valid child abuse and/or neglect investigation. The Tiered system also determines the length of time an individual remains on the SCR, and how long the information within the investigative record will be maintained in the state repository of child abuse and/or neglect.

II. PROCEDURES

A. TIERED VALIDITY DECISION MATRIX

Tier 1 (Permanently on the SCR)	Tier 2 (18 years on the SCR)	Tier 3 (7 years on the SCR)	Tier 4 (not on the SCR)	Tier 5 (not on the SCR)
Death/abuse	Passive physical abuse	Alcohol affected newborn	Food inadequate over 6	*** REP cases that were previously deemed not to pose a risk to children State office administrative decisions
Death/neglect	Passive sexual abuse	Drug affected newborn	Shelter inadequate	
Life Threatening injury/abuse/neglect	Drug/Alcohol Exposed Child	Coerced abortion	Clothing inadequate	
Bone fracture	Medical neglect	Food inadequate under 6 years	Safe Haven	
Central nervous system damage/brain damage/skull fracture	Threatened harm	Drug and alcohol abuse	Absent and/or Incapacitated Parent/Caretaker	
Factitious disorder by proxy/Munchausen by proxy syndrome	Emotional maltreatment	<u>MODERATE INJURIES</u> *Bruises, cuts, welts or scratches *Burns *Dislocations or sprains *Eye injury *Human Bites *Head/facial injury *Mouth/dental trauma *Tying or confinement	**Lack of adequate supervision/Mild	
Internal injuries	Exploitation (not sexual)			
Poisoning or noxious substance ingestion	<u>SEVERE INJURIES</u> *Bruises, cuts, welts or scratches *Burns *Dislocations or sprain *Eye injury *Human Bites *Head/facial injury *Mouth/dental trauma *Tying or confinement			
Subdural hematoma				
Suffocation				
Torture				
Whiplash/Shaken Infant syndrome				
Wounds				
HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis				

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Tier 1 (Permanently on the SCR)	Tier 2 (18 years on the SCR)	Tier 3 (7 years on the SCR)	Tier 4 (not on the SCR)	Tier 5 (not on the SCR)
Oral sex Sexual exploitation/ Juvenile sexual trafficking Sexual exploitation/ pornography Sexual intercourse Sexual transmitted disease Failure to thrive (Non Organic) Malnutrition/ starvation Sexual enticement Sexual manipulation or Fondling Simulated intercourse Rehomng Labor Trafficking	**Lack of adequate supervision/Severe **Drug/Alcohol Abuse Severe			

*Review severity considerations for determination of tier level (CPS Supervisor approval required)

** Requires a determination of severity by a CPS Supervisor prior to tier assignment

***Manual placement by PSRT (Protective Services Review Team)

Undetermined Tier (cases prior to 2006) require a manual placement by the PSRT.

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B. SEVERITY DETERMINATION AND CONSIDERATIONS USED TO DETERMINE TIER LEVELS

1. SEVERITY DETERMINATION

Lack of Adequate Supervision (Severe)

Examples Include but are not limited to:

- a. Parent who intentionally ignores or fails to monitor the child's whereabouts and actions on an ongoing basis and as a result the child is without care, supervision and guidance appropriate for his age and maturity to the extent the circumstances threaten the safety of the child.
- b. Leaving a child under the age of six at home alone and without a caretaker for a short period of time, or older child alone for an extended time (e.g. overnight or longer).

Lack of Adequate Supervision (Moderate)


Examples Include but are not limited to:

- a. Parent is present or in close proximity but fails or refuses to supervise the child on an ongoing/frequent basis resulting in minor harm or injury.
- b. Failure to supervise resident(s) of a residential facility that directly results in significant harm or injury to the resident(s).
- c. Leaving a child in a potentially unsafe place with intent to return for a short term that involves poor judgment, but no harm to child.

Lack of Adequate Supervision (Mild)

Examples Include but are not limited to:

- a. Child over the age of six left alone in a situation which could have resulted in harm and was a one-time incident, the result of brief inattention and/or poor judgment.
- b. Leaving a child with an appropriate caretaker but failing to resume care of the child, as agreed, with no apparent intent to abandon the child and the caretaker can no longer care for the children.

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- c. Deadly weapons or medications are readily accessible to a child but no injury or harm occurred.
- d. Brief failure of an in-home caretaker or out of home caretaker to provide adequate supervision that has not resulted in an injury or serious harm.
- e. Failure of a residential caretaker to anticipate and/or prevent a child in a residential setting from engaging in acting out behavior or making a poor choice that results in harm or injury.

2. SEVERITY CONSIDERATIONS USED TO DETERMINE TIER LEVELS

In determining the tier level consideration **MUST** be given to the following:

- severity of the injury to the child
- multiple injuries to the child
- medical treatment required as a result of the injury
- injury resulted in the hospitalization of the child
- long term harmful physical impairment to the child
(i.e. blindness or loss of vision due to the injury; loss of functioning or disfigurement due to burns)
- significant emotional impact or trauma to the child
(i.e. locking a young, vulnerable and/or disabled child in a closet)
- high or very high risk at the conclusion of the investigation
- child entered foster care as a result of the injury

III. FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS

There are no forms and instructions associated with this policy.

IV. REFERENCES

[4-220 Tiered Validity Decisions](#)