 Department of <b>Children &amp;  Family Services</b> <i>Building a Stronger Louisiana</i>	<b>Division/Section</b>	Child Welfare
	<b>Chapter No./Name</b>	6 – Foster Care
	<b>Part No./Name</b>	2 – Working With the Child's Family
	<b>Section No./Name</b>	Working With the Child's Family
	<b>Document No./Name</b>	6-202 Risk Assessment and Reassessment
	<b>Effective Date</b>	April 1, 2020

## I. STATEMENT OF POLICY

All cases \* with a goal of reunification \*\* referred to Foster Care as a result of child abuse and/or neglect shall be assessed for safety and risk, using the [Structured Decision Making Risk Assessment Tool](#). The Structured Decision Making (SDM) Risk Assessment and Reunification Reassessment is the process used to determine the degree to which the child may be at risk of future maltreatment the next 18-24 months. The Out-of-Home Reunification Reassessment is the tool used to assess the \* caregivers \*\* progress toward achieving case plan goals, which are focused on increasing protective capacities to address \*\*\* threats \* of danger \*\*.

The initial SDM Risk Assessment is used to identify families who have low, moderate, high or very high probabilities (levels) of future abuse \* and/ or \*\* or neglect. The Initial SDM Risk Assessment determines if a family is more or less likely to have another incident without further intervention by the Department.

The SDM Reunification Reassessment, which includes a \* risk determination from the most recent investigation, an evaluation of case plan progress, a visitation plan evaluation and a safety review \*\* \*\*\* informs decision making regarding reunification of a child with the family and permanency for the child. \* The Reunification Reassessment also determines the frequency of contact with the parent \*\*.


## II. PROCEDURES

### A. INITIAL RISK ASSESSMENT

The initial SDM Risk Assessment is completed by the assigned case \* worker \*\* who asked for the removal of the child, on the home of the parent where the abuse or neglect occurred. The initial SDM Risk Assessment is only completed on the home of the parent involved in the abuse or neglect of the child. The assigned SP case \* worker \*\* shall review the initial SDM Risk Assessment upon receipt of the case into Foster Care. \*\*\* The SDM risk assessment sets contact requirements for the family's case plan.

### B. REUNIFICATION REASSESSMENT

The SDM Out-of-Home Reunification Reassessment shall be completed three months \* (90 days) \*\* after the case was opened in FC, \*\*\* every three months (90 days) thereafter, \*\*\* prior to each case plan review as long as a case plan goal remains reunification \* and any time there is a significant change in family circumstances \*\* \*\*\*. When a case plan review is approaching, the reassessment should occur prior to the initiation of planning, even if that means the reassessment occurs a few weeks early. \* When completing the SDM Out-of-Home Reunification Reassessment, and a Safety Review is to be completed as part of that assessment a [Form 5](#), Safety Assessment shall be completed to assess if any child is still considered unsafe The safety assessment and risk assessment shall be used in combination

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to determine case planning and prior to considering a trial placement or immediate reunification. \*\*

If a parent did not receive an initial SDM Risk Assessment and has a case plan, then the SP case \* worker \*\* shall complete the SDM Reunification Reassessment three (3) months after developing the case plan with that parent. A Reunification Reassessment shall be completed every three \*\*\* months (90 days) thereafter, and prior to each case plan review as long as a case plan goal remains reunification, unless the case circumstances indicate a need to update it more frequently.

### C. USE AND DOCUMENTATION OF RISK LEVEL

The SDM risk level determines the minimum number of face-to-face contacts required with the parent/ \* caregiver \*\* and child monthly and guides reunification decisions and permanency. The SDM risk level, which is determined by completing the [online SDM assessment tool](#), shall be entered, and updated as it changes, in the appropriate spaces on the Assessment of Family Functioning (AFF) and case plan cover pages. The completed SDM assessment tool shall be printed from the online SDM system, signed by the case \* worker \*\* and supervisor, and filed in the case record \*\*\*. Refer to the Structured Decision Making Policy and Procedures Manual for detailed requirements for completing the risk assessment.

### III. FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS

\* [CW Form 5, Safety Assessment](#) \*\*

[Online SDM assessment tool](#)

SDM Initial Risk Assessment

SDM Out-of-Home Reunification Reassessment

Assessment of Family Functioning (AFF), online in FATS

### IV. REFERENCES

\* There are no references associated with this policy. \*\*