

# Child Protective Services: Investigation

---

[←←BACK](#)

[CONTENTS](#)

[FORWARD⇒⇒](#)

## 2104.27 Risk Assessment Scale (Form 457)

### Discussion

Assessing all cases will help identify risk in every investigation. It identifies families who may benefit from services. In addition, it is a way to lower the number of repeat complaints and repeat maltreatment to children.

### Requirement

Complete Form 457 (Risk Assessment Scale) to assess the risk level of all cases assigned for investigation, including cases that are opened for court-ordered supervision (See Instructions in Section X, Forms Section) **Complete both the Neglect and the Abuse scales, regardless of the type maltreatment that is alleged/substantiated.** [Exception: Do not complete the risk assessment when the maltreater of a substantiated case is a day care provider, foster parent, school employee or an agency standing *in loco parentis*.]

Substantiated cases that rate Moderate or High on the risk assessment scale remain open for services. Discuss with the supervisor that the correct risk rating has been assigned, based on the available information. Determine in conference with the supervisor, whether circumstances require an override to High Risk (see 2104.35). Complete [Form 458, Strengths/Needs Assessment Scale](#) (See [2105.8](#)) to begin the case plan process for these cases. Close cases that rate Low on the risk assessment scale.

Close cases with an unsubstantiated determination (See [2104.23](#)), unless the risk level rates High. Refer closed unsubstantiated cases to available resources, as needed (See [2104.37](#)).

**A low risk case that remains open for services cannot remain open in IDS, and [Form 590 \(Internal Data System\)](#) is submitted for closure immediately upon case determination.** The exceptions are cases with court ordered CPS involvement and **high risk unsubstantiated cases that remain open for services.**

**When an unsubstantiated case remains open because risk rates high, notify the family at a face-to-face visit of the decision to maintain an open case to work with the family on interventions that will lower risk to children.**