

# Child Protective Services: Investigation

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## 2104.35 Response Overrides

### Discussion

Information is often available or known about a family's situation that will clue the case manager and supervisor that risk to a child is likely higher than the rating on the risk assessment scale. There are certain factors, known to be high-risk indicators, which require a decision to override a low or moderate risk level to High Risk.

When aware of additional information that is not captured by the twenty-three questions on the Risk Assessment Scale (Form 457), it may be necessary to select an override for the purpose of assigning a higher risk category. An example is a situation where a mother allows an unrelated male, often a boyfriend and often unemployed, to care for young children. Current trends in Georgia child fatality cases identify these persons as often responsible for serious injury to a child, or even a child's death. There may also be circumstances that will allow an override to a lower category, such as when answers to certain questions on the risk assessment will never change.

### Requirement

The case manager and supervisor discuss in conference the risk assessment at the completion of the investigation. Based on information gained at investigation and knowledge about family history, a decision is made of whether a higher response level is required. The supervisor is responsible for approving the use of an override that will move the case into a higher risk category. The supervisor's signature on the Risk Assessment Scale (Form 457) indicates approval of the risk assessment and the level of contact needed.

#### **The following situations always require an override to High Risk:**

- Sexual abuse cases where the maltreater is likely to have access to a child victim;
- Cases with non-accidental physical injury to an infant or physical injury or threat of physical injury to a child with a disability;

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- Non-accidental physical injury that requires hospitalization or medical treatment;
- Cases with medical documentation of abuse
- Cases with non-accidental injury to a child age four and younger;
- Death (previous or current) of a sibling as a result of abuse or neglect.
- Other / Optional. Reason \_\_\_\_\_

The supervisor uses the Optional Override to move risk level up or down.