



















and do so in an abundant fashion with due respect for the constraints and realities of CPS work. Action for Child Protection: The Foundation of Safety Assessment, April 2003).<sup>6</sup>

### **Overriding the Risk Assessment**

At the completion of the assessment, the SSCM and SSS must staff the assessment result and review the assessed risk level. Based on information gained during the assessment and knowledge about family history, a decision is made of whether a higher response level is required. The SSS is responsible for approving the use of an override that will move the case into a higher risk category. The SSS's signature on the Risk Assessment Scale indicates approval of the risk assessment and the level of contact needed.

The following situations require an override to High Risk:

1. Sexual abuse cases where the alleged perpetrator is likely to have access to a child victim;
2. Cases with non-accidental physical injury to an infant or physical injury or threat of physical injury to a child with a disability;
3. Non-accidental physical injury that requires hospitalization or medical treatment;
4. Cases with medical documentation of abuse
5. Cases with non-accidental injury to a child age four and younger;
6. Death (previous or current) of a sibling as a result of abuse or neglect.

When aware of additional information that is not captured by the Risk Assessment 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.

## **REFERENCES**

### **Web links**

1. Action for Child Protection Article: The Foundations of Safety Assessments  
<http://www.actionchildprotection.org/archive/article0403.htm>

<sup>6</sup> Action for Child Protection, The Foundation of Safety Assessments.. Retrieved February 5, 2009, from <http://www.actionchildprotection.org/archieve/article0403.htm>