

Topic 17: Injury or Risk is Minor, Isolated, and Unlikely to Reoccur

Link to [CPS Assessment Procedure](#)

Determining if Injury or Risk of Injury Was Minor

To determine whether a **physical injury** was minor, consider:

- ◆ The location and size of the injury.
- ◆ The force used to inflict the injury.
- ◆ The potential of greater injury to the child.
- ◆ The age, medical condition, mental and physical maturity, and functioning level of the child.

“Minor” physical injuries may include injuries such as red marks and faint bruising, taking into account the child’s age and the size and location of the injury. For example, grab marks on the upper arms of an adolescent may be considered minor, but the same type of injury on a toddler would not be minor.

To determine whether a report of child abuse confirmed for denial of critical care by failure to provide proper **supervision** or denial of critical care by failure to provide adequate **clothing** was minor, consider:

- ◆ The length of time the endangerment occurred.
- ◆ The likelihood that the child would have suffered injury or death.
- ◆ The age, medical condition, mental and physical maturity, and functioning level of the child.

If the injury was **not minor**, the confirmed report shall be **founded**, regardless of the isolated or likelihood of reoccurrence criteria.

Determining if Injury or Risk of Injury Was Isolated

To determine whether a report of child abuse confirmed for physical abuse or confirmed for denial of critical care for failure to provide proper supervision or for failure to provide adequate clothing was isolated, document that:

- ◆ There are no other reports of child abuse confirmed, or
- ◆ The information gathered in the current assessment supports the evidence that the incident was an isolated occurrence.

Determining if Injury or Risk of Injury Is Unlikely to Reoccur

To determine whether a report of child abuse confirmed for physical abuse or confirmed for denial of critical care for failure to provide proper supervision or for failure to provide adequate clothing is unlikely to reoccur, consider:

- ◆ The responsible caretaker's response to the incident of abuse and receptiveness to alternative methods of discipline, care, or supervision.
- ◆ Whether any factors contributing to the abuse continue to exist, are ongoing, or are no longer present.

Example of rationale:

The report is confirmed for denial of critical care by failure to provide proper supervision. By all accounts, the child, age 5, was left home alone and unattended from approximately 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

The child was left alone because of inadequate child care arrangements. The mother left for work at 7:30 a.m. as usual, believing that the babysitter was en route to the home. The babysitter had car trouble and was delayed about two hours.

While the child was clearly not adequately supervised, all parties have assured that it has never happened previously, and that it will not reoccur. The mother will wait for the babysitter to arrive before leaving for work.

The child clearly was placed at risk. However, the child is seen as relatively trustworthy and did have a telephone at his disposal. The child stated that in the event of an emergency, he would either vacate the house or call 911.

The criteria of minor, isolated, and unlikely to reoccur have been met. Therefore, the report is confirmed but is not placed on the Registry as a founded report.