

FAMILY SERVICES ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES

NDCC Chapter 50-25.1-02(14) "**Family services assessment**" means a child protection services response to reports of suspected child abuse or neglect in which the child is determined to be at low risk and safety concerns for the child are not evident according to **guidelines developed by the department.**

RULE OUTS – FSA CANNOT BE COMPLETED WHEN ANY ONE OF THESE ARE PRESENT:	
RULE OUT - REPORT	
Open Child Protection Assessment	Reported Present Danger or Impending Danger
Report includes a weapon that has been used to threaten or harm anyone in the home	Reported concerns involve manufacturing or distribution of illegal substances or involve a drug raid
Reported sexual abuse, sex trafficking, physical abuse (includes excessive physical discipline), medical neglect, near death and child fatalities	
RULE OUT – HISTORY	
History of fatal abuse, fatal neglect, or unexplained / undetermined child fatality	Multiple previous reports indicating an escalating pattern of abuse and neglect
Previous non-compliance with services necessary for the safety of the child(ren)	
RULE OUT – CHILDREN	
HSZ had prior custody of any child living in the home and the case was closed within the last 2 years	Under 5 years of age
Foster child or a child placed in relative or kinship care, or with an alternate caregiver	Victims of a 'Confirmed with an Unknown Subject' decision
At risk of out of home placement, active safety plan in place to control danger	
RULE OUT – SUBJECT	
Previous Services Required / Confirmed decision in last 2 years (except Ed Neglect)	Currently on the Index for physical or sexual abuse
Previous Unable to Determine decision	Household member is a registered offender
Declines to participate in the FSA	

FAMILY SERVICES ASSESSMENT IS USED WHEN:	
Reported maltreatment is unlikely to create a state of danger	Parent / caregivers have sufficient protective capacities to assure basic child safety and supervision
All child victims are age 5 and older	Services and supports are available to assist the family

When Present or Impending Danger has been identified at any time during the assessment, an FSA is no longer appropriate, revert to a Child Protection Services Assessment.