



# FLORIDA SAFETY DECISION MAKING METHODOLOGY

## Information Collection and Family Functioning Assessment

**Case Name:** Croft, Amy  
**Worker Name:** Martin, Allison  
**FSFN Case ID:** 100555888

**Initial Intake Received Date:** 1/6/13  
**Date Completed:** 1/19/13  
**Intake/Investigation ID:** 2013-622805-01

### I. MALTREATMENT AND NATURE OF MALTREATMENT

What is the extent of the maltreatment? What surrounding circumstances accompany the alleged maltreatment?

Hotline Intake 2013-622805-01 was received on 1/6/13 alleging that Amy Croft, mother of Micah and Makenzie, along with mother's friend, were arrested for cooking crystal methamphetamine and trafficking drugs from the friend's home. The children were not present at the time of the arrest, however both children have been frequenting the home in which the meth was being manufactured. The children were left in the care of Donna Hamilton, a friend with whom the mother had been residing with the children. Hamilton was also on probation for manufacturing and distribution of methamphetamine. The reporter advised against the children remaining in Hamilton's home.

Micah, 2½ years and Makenzie, 9 years, were placed into emergency foster care on 1/7/13 after their mother, Ms. Croft, was arrested for manufacturing and distribution of methamphetamine. Micah had been frequenting the home where Ms. Croft was arrested and where methamphetamine was manufactured, resulting in his exposure to hazardous conditions. It was also determined during the investigation that mother had not been adequately providing for the basic needs of Micah or Makenzie, to include supervision. At the time of Ms. Croft's arrest, Blake Thomas, father to Micah and Makenzie, was not available to provide for care, as he is currently incarcerated for probation violations as a result of domestic violence towards the mother, Ms. Croft.

Ms. Croft's explanation for her arrest was inconsistent with her history. Ms. Croft reports that she was unaware of what was going on in the home and that she was helping a friend out to make some money to care for the children. Ms. Croft's history with DCF and arrests include prior history of manufacturing and distribution of methamphetamine, as well as methamphetamine abuse. In addition, Ms. Croft's history includes frequent periods of transient housing and exposing her children to hazardous living conditions, including manufacturing of methamphetamine and substantial drug usage by household members.

Ms. Croft completed substance abuse in-patient treatment for methamphetamine and was discharged 2/15/12. The drug treatment was court-ordered as part of her probation. During the time Ms. Croft was in treatment, Micah and Makenzie stayed with their father. Ms. Croft returned to the home with Micah, Makenzie and Mr. Thomas when she was discharged.

Mr. Thomas and Ms. Croft's relationship has been continually unstable for the past four years, with Ms. Croft leaving the family home for months at a time and then returning to the home. Mr. Croft reports that this is often the time that she is using, when she leaves. At times she takes Micah and other times she leaves him with Mr. Thomas. She has not ever taken Makenzie with her, until this last time that she left Mr. Thomas.

Approximately four months ago Ms. Croft left the family home. Ms. Croft alleges that she left due to being afraid of Mr. Thomas, so she left to keep her children safe. Mr. Thomas alleges that Ms. Croft left due to her relapsing on methamphetamine and that she had found out that he was aware of her use. Ms. Croft was afraid Mr. Thomas would leave with Micah and Makenzie.



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Since leaving the family home, Ms. Croft has been relying on friends to assist her in taking care of Micah and Makenzie and providing her with a place to stay. She has been staying with Donna Hamilton the past couple of months.

Mr. Thomas is currently incarcerated for a probation violation. He is on probation for domestic violence as he assaulted Ms. Croft two years ago. Mr. Thomas has physically assaulted Ms. Croft, to include beating, kicking, and punching. Mr. Thomas violated his probation this fall when he was stopped for a DUI; drinking is a violation of his probation. The father acknowledges that he was aware of the mother's use of methamphetamine since her release from treatment and that he has been trying to see Micah and Makenzie since she left the residence, but has been unsuccessful. Mr. Thomas was unaware of Ms. Croft's manufacturing, but reports that this was not surprising to him, as he and Ms. Croft were both involved with manufacturing methamphetamine in the past.

Both Micah and Makenzie were seen for medical exams for possible exposure to methamphetamine manufacturing. Both children were medically cleared. Makenzie did not have any traces of methamphetamine, which is consistent with her report that she had not been to the home where methamphetamine was being manufactured with her mother. Makenzie believes that Ms. Croft would bring Micah there while she was at school.

Micah was medically cleared, and did not have any traces of methamphetamine. CPT recommended that it was still important that he be monitored over the course of the next several months for continued assessment of any effects that may be related to his exposure to methamphetamine.

Makenzie is aware of her mother's drug usage. She is able to articulate what methamphetamine is and how it is used. She has seen her mother use drugs in the past, however has not seen her use for the past couple of months. Makenzie thinks that her mother is using again, because of how she acts towards her and Micah.

Ms. Croft has been involved with DCF with prior children, to include losing custody of her oldest child due to substance misuse. That child was placed for adoption by the agency.

**Maltreatment: Verified for Substance Misuse, Environmental Hazards and Family Violence Threatens Child**

**Analysis:** Micah and Makenzie Thomas have been exposed to hazardous living arrangements and parents who have not provided for the basic care and supervision needs of their children. Mr. Thomas engaged in violence and destructive adult behavior which resulted in his incarceration and subsequent inability to provide for his children. Ms. Croft continues to abuse substances, in particular methamphetamine, and leaves her children with care providers that are not equipped to provide for their needs, nor are indicative of safe persons. Ms. Croft has been demonstrating a pattern of placing her needs above those of her children for the past four years, resulting in Micah and Makenzie being unsafe. Neither Mr. Thomas or Ms. Croft appear to have insight regarding the need for Micah and Makenzie to be safe, and neither parent acknowledges their actions as being contrary to Micah and Makenzie's safety.

**Observations and Interviews:** Micah, Makenzie, Mr. Thomas, Mrs. Croft, collateral contact made with CPT for medical information for children.



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Related Impending Danger Threats	Impending Danger Threat?	
	Yes	No
<b>Based on case information specific to the Extent of Maltreatment and Circumstances Surrounding Maltreatment Assessment domains, indicate Yes, Impending Danger exists or No, Impending Danger does not exist.</b>		
Parent's/Legal Guardian's or Caregiver's intentional and willful act caused serious physical injury to the child, or the parent/legal guardian or caregiver intended to seriously injure the child.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Child has a serious illness or injury (indicative of child abuse) that is unexplained, or the Parent's/Legal Guardian's or Caregiver's explanations are inconsistent with the illness or injury.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The child's physical living conditions are hazardous and a child has already been seriously injured or will likely be seriously injured. The living conditions seriously endanger the child's physical health.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
There are reports of serious harm and the child's whereabouts cannot be determined and/or there is a reason to believe that the family is about to flee to avoid agency intervention and/or the family refuses access to the child to assess for serious harm.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parent/Legal Guardian or Caregiver is not meeting the child's essential medical needs AND the child is has already been seriously harmed or will likely be serious harmed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other. Explain:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### II. CHILD FUNCTIONING

How does the child function on a daily basis? Include physical health, development; emotion and temperament; intellectual functioning; behavior; ability to communicate; self-control; educational performance; peer relations; behaviors that seem to provoke parent/caregiver reaction/behavior; activities with family and others. Include a description of each child's vulnerability based on threats identified.

#### MICAH THOMAS

Micah is a 33 month old Caucasian male, who has had little to no stability in his life. Micah is part of a sibling group of five - with two full biological siblings and two half-siblings. Micah has no current relationship with his half siblings. He did reside with his younger sibling for a short period of time when she was first born and has had sporadic contact with her since over the course of the past year.

Micah does not have a set routine, and has been dependent upon his care provider for the day, which is usually Makenzie. When Micah was with his father, the routine was dependent upon his father's schedule. Often times, this resulted in Micah going to bed around midnight and waking around 10/11am. Ms. Croft could not provide a schedule for Micah, attributing the lack of schedule as her way of allowing "Micah to be Micah."

Neither parent was able to provide information regarding the medical care that Micah has received. Both parents note that Micah was born full-term, with no medical concerns noted at the time. He is current on his vaccinations; however, he does not have a set medical provider. Ms. Croft relies on the emergency room as a means for medical care for Micah when needed, which both report is infrequent.

Micah's interactions with others are primarily with adults and his sister, Makenzie. He is open to adults and freely goes to the adults in the room, regardless of his familiarity with them. Both parents describe Micah as a people person. Micah has never attended child care nor has he been in settings where he is exposed on a consistent basis to other children his age. When faced with other children his own age, Micah appears to experience some discomfort and retreats to the adults in the room.

Micah's communication is adequate for a child his age. Micah is able to articulate through verbal



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communication with others. His vocabulary is consistent with a child that has been exposed to adults using profanity and child now also uses inappropriate language at times.

Ms. Croft describes Micah as "very smart, not a typical two year old." She describes him as loving and very sweet towards everyone. Ms. Croft does not believe that Micah has any developmental concerns. Ms. Croft believes that Micah will do well when he goes to school, but right now, does not see a need for Micah to have interaction with other children his age.

Makenzie describes Micah as a "handful" and that she feels that she has to look out for him. Makenzie feels that Micah does not listen to her when she tells him to not do things. Micah and Makenzie share a "bedroom." Makenzie states that Micah has trouble sleeping at times, so she often will try to read stories to him to get him to go to sleep. Makenzie has been working with Micah on potty training when she is home from school. Makenzie is concerned that Micah is not potty trained, as he is going to be three soon and thinks that he needs to be potty trained. Makenzie is excited that Micah will be able to have some interaction with other children since they have been in the foster home.

Analysis: Micah is a 33 month old Caucasian male that lacks consistency and stability in his life. He has been exposed to areas where meth is being manufactured; he has been exposed to family violence which contributed to his mother's need to flee their home; and he has learned to depend on his 9 year old sister for meeting his basic needs. While pleasant and well-mannered, he has little to no social connections with other children, thus creating a lack in social skills needed for interaction with other children. Micah has no stranger fears and easily adapts to his caregivers further indicating the lack of consistency and routine when he was with his mother. Micah is in need of a consistent, safe caregiver who is able to place his needs for social connections and stability above their own needs.

### MAKENZIE THOMAS

Makenzie is a 9 year old who has little stability in her life. She has had to transfer schools five times in the past four years due to the transience of her family. Makenzie is currently attending Walter Symons Elementary School, where she is in the third grade. Educationally Makenzie is not on target for a third grader. The school counselor believes that this is due to the instability of Makenzie's home life and having had attended so many different schools. Makenzie's reading is at Kindergarten level. Makenzie's math skills are also significantly lacking. Currently Makenzie is being evaluated for an IEP to assist her in achieving the appropriate educational level. Makenzie likes her current school and has been able to make some friends that are her age and share similar interests. Makenzie would like to stay at Walter Symons Elementary School and not change schools again.

Makenzie has not seen a medical provider "in a long time." Makenzie was not aware of anytime that she had seen a dentist, and does not report that she has any problems with her teeth. She has lost a few teeth and was disappointed that the tooth fairy did not come; she thinks the tooth fairy is not real.

Makenzie does not have a good relationship with either her mother or her father. Makenzie reports that she is very angry with both of them because they can't "stay out of trouble." Makenzie has a minimal relationship with her siblings, other than Micah. Her older sister was adopted and she has no recollection of her; she sees her younger sister sporadically. Her half-siblings on her father's side she does not know, as she has never met them, just know about them from her father.

Ms. Croft describes Makenzie as a "responsible" girl, who is very helpful to her as a parent.



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Ms. Croft views Makenzie as a good support to her and is grateful that Makenzie is so independent. Ms. Croft struggled to articulate the strengths of Makenzie, other than she is helpful and responsible. Ms. Croft is aware that Makenzie is struggling at school, however does not know how to assist her due to her own educational limitations. Ms. Croft knows that Makenzie has friends because she tells her about them but she could not name the friends or has never seen them at the house. Ms. Croft was not able to identify a medical provider for Makenzie; she relies on the Emergency Room if needed to treat the children should they become ill.

Mr. Thomas describes Makenzie as a good child that was helpful to him when he was taking care of both Micah and Makenzie alone. Mr. Thomas would like to see Makenzie involved in activities, such as sports and other activities at the school. Mr. Thomas knows that Makenzie is angry with him and wants Makenzie to be happy, so is willing to support her in any way possible. Mr. Thomas has not had frequent contact with Makenzie in the last several months and is not aware of how she is doing now.

**Analysis:** Makenzie is a 9 year old Caucasian female who has been residing primarily with her mother and younger sibling. Given continued family violence, Makenzie's mother had to leave the family home and Makenzie has experienced multiple changes in living arrangements and schools. Makenzie is not on target with academic achievement. Makenzie had limited to no support within her mother's home and has taken on the role of the primary caregiver to her younger brother. Makenzie presents as worried and angry both in regards to her parents and her sense of responsibility for her younger brother. Makenzie has a limited social network that primarily occurs while at school.

**Observations and Interviews:** Micah, Makenzie, Mr. Thomas, Mrs. Croft, collaterals with D. Hamilton (mother's friend), L. Fletcher (school counselor), Mrs. Wells (foster parent)

**Related Child Functioning Impending Danger Threats:**

Based on case information specific to the Child Functioning Assessment domain, indicate Yes, Impending Danger exists or No, Impending Danger does not exist.

Impending Danger Threat?	
Yes	No

Child shows serious emotional symptoms requiring intervention and/or lacks behavioral control and/or exhibits self-destructive behavior that the Parent/Legal Guardian or Caregiver are unwilling or unable to manage to keep the child safe

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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### III. ADULT FUNCTIONING

How does the adult function on a daily basis? Overall life management. Include assessment and analysis of prior child abuse/neglect history, criminal behavior, impulse control, substance use/abuse, violence and domestic violence, mental health; include an assessment of the adult's physical health, emotion and temperament, cognitive ability; intellectual functioning; behavior; ability to communicate; self-control; education; peer and family relations, employment, etc.

**AMY CROFT**

Ms. Croft, age 30, was born and raised in Orlando Florida. She has lived in other areas of Florida, but has primarily resided within Orlando the past ten years. Ms. Croft was raised in a household where alcohol was prevalent by both her mother and her father. Her parents separated when she was 12, with her mother becoming sober and her father continuing to drink. Ms. Croft's mother left her and her siblings with her father. Ms. Croft feels that this was due to her mother seeking treatment for her alcohol abuse.

At the age of 16, Ms. Croft left home due to reported abuse by her father. She reports that her father was verbally and emotionally abusive to her and her siblings growing up and that it increased in intensity





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when her parents separated. Ms.Croft resided primarily with her mother after leaving her father's home, however at times would choose to stay with friends. Ms.Croft's father died in 1997 of an alcohol related stroke.

Ms.Croft's mother, Lisa Clement, remarried and Ms.Croft does not have good relationship with her mother and stepfather, Ben Clement. Ms.Croft blames her mother for the death of her father, because she had left him and Ms.Croft believes that was the reason that her father's alcohol use increased. While Ms.Croft does not have a good relationship with her mother and step-father, Ms.Croft often asks them for assistance when she perceives that she does not have any other resources. Lisa and Ben Clement have chosen to distance themselves from Ms.Croft and Mr.Thomas, as they do not agree with their lifestyle and have provided a significant amount of assistance over the past 10 years, with no changes by Ms.Croft. Mr. and Mrs. Clement have been caretaking one of the children, and have declined to provide additional assistance to Ms.Croft, as they feel that she has taken advantage of their assistance, including losing money, having cars stolen, and drugs being brought into their home.

Ms.Croft began experimenting with alcohol and drugs at the age of 14. She started using marijuana and progressed to using acid, ecstasy, cocaine, methamphetamines, and alcohol. Since she began using drugs at the age of 14, she can only recall being sober for a few months at a time, however reports that she does not use alcohol, as she relates the alcohol use to the death of her father. Ms.Croft did not complete high school, nor has she obtained her GED, primarily due to her substance use.

At the age of 16 Ms.Croft was diagnosed with depression after her mother forced her to see a therapist or she would be kicked out of her home, resulting in being homeless. Ms.Croft was placed on antidepressants, Paxil, however only took the medications for one year before she left home permanently at the age of 17.

When Ms.Croft left her mother's home, at 17, she primarily resided with various friends. She found employment, sporadically in the restaurant business, mostly fast food service. She met Jason Riddle while working at a fast food restaurant. Ms.Croft and Mr.Riddle lived together with various friends during the time they were together. Ms.Croft had her first child, Calvin, at the age of 18 with Mr. Riddle. Mr. Riddle and Ms.Croft were together for two years, from the time Ms.Croft was 17 to 19. Ms.Croft reports that she left the relationship with Mr. Riddle due to his violence towards her and his alcohol abuse.

Following her separation with Mr. Riddle, Ms.Croft began a period of transient living and increased drug use, which eventually resulted in Calvin being removed from her care and later adopted by his paternal grandparents. Ms.Croft met Blake Thomas while she was residing with some friends. Mr.Thomas was older than Ms.Croft and at the time provided Ms.Croft with support, such as money and food. Ms. Croft became pregnant with her second child, Makenzie, shortly after Mr. Thomas and she met. During the course of her pregnancy she continued to live a transient lifestyle, and upon arrival to the hospital to deliver Makenzie she had a black eye and flesh wound from being stabbed. These were attributed to a physical fight between Ms.Croft and Mr. Thomas's sister.

Ms.Croft became pregnant with Micah during a time that she and Mr. Thomas were "separated." Ms. Croft believes that Micah is Mr. Thomas's child and Mr. Thomas has never disputed the paternity of Micah. Ms.Croft had been involved in various drug related activity, including distribution of methamphetamine and was on probation when Micah was born. Micah and Amy both tested negative for substances at the time of Micah's birth.

Madison, Ms.Croft's third child, was born approximately one year later, and due to Ms.Croft's prior criminal convictions and Ms.Croft testing positive for methamphetamine at the birth, she was court-ordered



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to enter rehabilitation upon discharge from the hospital. Madison did not test positive for substances when she was born and was born full-term with no complications. Ms. Croft placed Madison with her maternal grandparents due to being arrested and Mr. Thomas cared for the other two children. Madison has remained with her maternal grandparents since that time. Ms. Croft has little to no contact with Madison.

Amy successfully completed the inpatient portion of her treatment and upon discharge, resumed her transient lifestyle. She started living with Mr. Thomas again; however she left shortly after that time due to her reported fear of Mr. Thomas. Ms. Croft describes her relationship with Mr. Thomas as good, and reports that they have plans to marry in the future, but does not have a date set. Ms. Croft identifies periods of time where there has been violence towards her by Mr. Thomas, but that has been close to two years ago. Ms. Croft describes attending a domestic violence assessment after her relationship with Mr. Riddle ended, but does not feel that there is a need for continued domestic violence classes or assessments now, as things are fine with her and Mr. Thomas.

**Analysis:** Ms. Croft has led a transient lifestyle that has centered around drug usage and utilization of others to meet her basic needs. Ms. Croft has limited employment skills and her educational background is limited. In the past 14 years, there have been relative short periods of time where she was not abusing substances or engaged in an abusive relationship with others. Ms. Croft, despite the criminal consequences, has continued to abuse substances and align herself in relationships that are detrimental to her well-being. Ms. Croft, despite having an appropriate support network, does not reach out for assistance unless it is needed, such as for placing children. Ms. Croft lacks basic problem solving and coping skills, as well as impulse control.

### BLAKE THOMAS:

Blake Thomas is a 41 year old Caucasian male, primarily raised in Orlando Florida. Mr. Thomas was primarily raised by his maternal grandparents, due to be his parent's alcoholism. Mr. Thomas reports that his mother lived across the street from them, and he was able to visit her often. Mr. Thomas had a limited relationship with his father and when Mr. Thomas was a teen-ager he found his father deceased in the family home. The death was alcohol-related. Mr. Thomas describes his parents as uninvolved with him, and neglectful as parents.

Mr. Thomas has a limited educational background, as he did not complete high school. He left high school shortly after finding his father deceased and has not pursued his GED, as he feels that it is not needed because he has always been able to find work. Mr. Thomas has worked a variety of jobs in the past 20 years--from construction to a car wash attendant. His last employment was at a car wash, where he had worked for approximately five months before his most recent incarceration.

Mr. Thomas has an extensive criminal history that includes multiple arrests for substance-related offenses and violence against others. Charges include cocaine possession, cocaine distribution, marijuana possession and distribution, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, larceny, battery, and robbery. He is currently incarcerated at the county jail for violation of probation conditions, with an unknown release date. Mr. Thomas violated his probation when he was arrested for driving under the influence and driving on a suspended license.

Mr. Thomas has never been married, although would like to marry Ms. Croft. He has fathered five children with three different women in the last 15 years. Mr. Thomas has contact with two of his children, Micah and Makenzie. He would like to have contact with all his children, however is not sure where one of



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his children is currently, and he does not know if he would be allowed to visit the older children or Madison. Mr. Thomas self describes himself as a person with a "bad history" of substance use and criminal activity. Mr. Thomas reports that his criminal activity is behind him now and that upon release from jail that he plans to live with his grandmother to start fresh. Mr. Thomas does not identify as having a current substance abuse problem, but rather an anger problem due to his frustration with Ms. Croft relapsing.

**Analysis:** Mr. Thomas has led a lifestyle that is centered around criminal activity. Since the age of 18, Mr. Thomas has had multiple arrests and incarcerations for various criminal activities, both drug related and violent offenses. Mr. Thomas has little to no periods of stability outside of incarceration, and has relied on criminal activity to support his lifestyle. Mr. Thomas self-reports that he has made changes in his life, however his actions and current incarceration are not indicative of positive change. Mr. Thomas has not demonstrated his ability to place his own needs aside in favor of any of his children, and has not been able to refrain from violence or activities that would allow him to provide for his children.

**Observations and Interviews:** Micah, Makenzie, Mr. Thomas, Mrs. Croft, collaterals with L. Clement (MGM), B. Wise (PGGM)

Related Adult Functioning Impending Danger Threats:  Based on case information specific to the Adult Functioning Assessment domain, indicate Yes, Impending Danger exists or No, Impending Danger does not exist.	Impending Danger Threat?	
	Yes	No
Parent/Legal Guardian or Caregiver is violent, impulsive, cannot or will not control behavior or is acting dangerously in ways that have seriously harmed the child or will likely seriously harm to the child.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### IV. PARENTING

General – What are the overall, typical, parenting practices used by the parents/legal guardians? Discipline/Behavior Management – What are the disciplinary approaches used by the parents/legal guardians, and under what circumstances?

##### AMY CROFT

Ms. Croft has four biological children. Ms. Croft's first child, Calvin, she cared for until he was thirteen months old when he was removed from her care due neglect as a result of substance abuse. Ms. Croft's second and third children Makenzie and Micah, have primarily resided with either Ms. Croft or Mr. Thomas. Ms. Croft's fourth child, Madison, Ms. Croft placed with her parents as she was not able to care for all three of the children, Makenzie, Micah, and Madison. Madison has remained in the care of her grandparents, and Ms. Croft would like for that placement to remain permanent.

Ms. Croft describes her parenting as "not good." Ms. Croft describes periods of time that she was neglectful of Calvin and recognizes why he is not in her care anymore. Ms. Croft believes that a strength she has as a parent is that she has never used drugs in front of her children, but does acknowledges that she has cared for her children while under the influence of drugs. Ms. Croft does not believe that her being under the influence impaired her ability to care for her children. Ms. Croft does not recognize that Makenzie has witnessed her drug usage and is aware of the effects of Ms. Croft's usage on her interactions with Makenzie and Micah.

Ms. Croft was not able to provide any details regarding her parenting beliefs or practices, she views her role as a parent as to "just be there for the children and see how things go." Ms. Croft desires to be a





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good parent to Makenzie and Micah, however she does not identify any resources or role models for parenting, and did not appear open to learning new parenting practices to meet Makenzie's or Micah's needs. Ms. Croft did complete a parenting class in the past, however was not able to recall information learned during the class, in particular knowledge regarding what a toddler and youth may need from a parent.

Donna Hamilton, the friend that Ms. Croft, Makenzie, and Micah stayed with for a period of time, describes Ms. Croft's parenting as absent. Ms. Hamilton reported that the majority of the time Ms. Croft, Makenzie, and Micah stayed with her, either Makenzie or herself were the primary caregivers for Micah, as Ms. Croft was frequently not at the home. When Ms. Croft was at the home, Ms. Hamilton observed Ms. Croft to be loving towards Micah, but not responsive to Micah unless Micah sought her out. Ms. Hamilton observed Ms. Croft to be distant from Makenzie and Makenzie to be distant towards Ms. Croft. Ms. Hamilton believes that Makenzie is very angry with Ms. Croft and had witnessed Makenzie yelling at Ms. Croft at times regarding her not doing anything to help her or Micah.

Ms. Croft's parents believe that Ms. Croft loves her children, however they do not believe that Ms. Croft has the ability to parent due to her substance abuse. Mr. Thomas describes Ms. Croft as a "fun parent" when she is sober. Mr. Thomas identifies Ms. Croft as the friend to Makenzie and Micah, rather than a parent. Mr. Thomas believes that Ms. Croft loves all of her children and that Makenzie and Micah are the children that she has really worked to be able to raise, while being sober.

**Discipline/Behavior Management:** Ms. Croft does not have a set discipline routine or expectation for either of the children. Ms. Croft reports that she believes she has spoiled her children. Micah throws tantrums where he throws himself to the ground, kicking and screaming, that result in Ms. Croft giving into his "demands." Micah, at times, has become violent with others when he has been told no. Ms. Croft does not believe that his tantrums are of concern and that this is normal toddler behavior. There have been times that Ms. Croft has attempted to use time out for Micah, but she acknowledges those were unsuccessful so she ended up spanking him instead. She could not recall what the reason for the time out was or why it resulted in a spanking.

Makenzie was not able to articulate any rules or consequences within her household. Makenzie has not ever been "disciplined." She believes this is because her mother has not really taken a "mother" role in the context of telling her no for things. Makenzie knows right and wrong and knows about consequences. She equates rules and consequences to the rules that have been set at school.

**Analysis:** Ms. Croft does not possess the parenting skills necessary to parent Micah or Makenzie. Ms. Croft does not identify herself as a parental figure, and does not provide for consistent care for Makenzie and Micah. Ms. Croft was not able to correlate her negative actions, such as being under the influence of substances, and the child's safety needs. Ms. Croft does not recognize the developmental and emotional needs of a child, and has not responded to meet Makenzie and Micah's basic parenting needs, to include discipline.

**BLAKE THOMAS:**

Mr. Thomas has never provided for the care of any of his five children. He often relies on the mothers of his children to provide the care. Mr. Thomas was the sole care provider for Micah and Makenzie for a period of three months, at which time he abdicated his role to his grandmother, as he was not able to handle caring for Micah and Makenzie.

The relationships that Mr. Thomas has with his children are based upon his needs, rather than



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those of his children. He maintains infrequent contact with his children and their mothers, and provides no support to the children, either financially or emotionally. Mr. Thomas does not provide any details regarding his view on parenting or how he perceives his parenting. Mr. Thomas attributes his children to "they just happened." Mr. Thomas would like to provide for Micah and Makenzie in the future, however would like to do so with the assistance of his grandmother.

Ms. Croft believes that Mr. Thomas and the children are very well bonded and that he is a good dad to them, however when asked for specifics of what being a good dad looked like, Ms. Croft could not provide examples. Ms. Croft reported that Mr. Thomas was worried about Micah and Makenzie when she left with the children and she believes that is a good thing as a parent.

**Discipline/Behavior Management:** Mr. Thomas acknowledges that he does not discipline any of his children. He has had limited time in caring for his children and does not feel that punishing while he is caring for them is in their best interest, as he is afraid then they won't want to see him. Mr. Thomas knows that children need discipline, however relies on others to provide the discipline/behavior management for his children. In particular with Micah and Makenzie, Mr. Thomas would defer to his grandmother to provide the discipline for them. He was not clear on how his grandmother disciplined them. His grandmother is currently in a nursing home with congestive heart failure.

**Analysis:** Mr. Thomas has limited to no parenting experience. When tasked with a parenting role, he seeks out others to provide the parenting. He does not identify himself as a parent and has been frequently unable to provide for the care of his children due to his incarceration and transient lifestyle. Mr. Thomas cannot identify what the needs of a child are or how he would accomplish meeting those needs.

**Observations and Interviews:** Micah, Makenzie, Mr. Thomas, Mrs. Croft, collaterals with D. Hamilton (mother's friend), L. Clement (MGM), B. Wise (PGGM)

**Related Parenting Impending Danger Threats:**

Based on case information specific to the Parenting General and Parent Discipline Assessment domains, indicate Yes, Impending Danger exists or No, Impending Danger does not exist.

Impending Danger Threat?	
Yes	No



# FLORIDA SAFETY DECISION MAKING METHODOLOGY

## Information Collection and Family Functioning Assessment

Parent/Legal Guardian or Caregiver is not meeting child's basic and essential needs for food, clothing, and/or supervision AND the child is/has already been seriously harmed or will likely be seriously harmed.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parent/Legal Guardian or Caregiver is threatening to seriously harm the child and/or parent/legal guardian or caregiver is fearful he/she will seriously harm the child.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parent/Legal Guardian or Caregiver views child and/or acts toward the child in extremely negative ways AND such behavior has or will result in serious harm to the child.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### V. PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN PROTECTIVE CAPACITIES ANALYSIS

*If there are more than five Parent/Legal Guardians to assess, complete Appendix A – Parent/Legal Guardian Protective Capacities Analysis*

Adults	Capacity Categories and Types																	
	Behavioral					Cognitive						Emotional						
	Controls Impulses	Takes Action	Sets aside own needs for child	Demonstrates adequate skills	Adaptive as a Parent/Legal Guardian	Is self aware	Is intellectually able	Recognizes threats	Recognizes child's needs	Understands protective role	Plans and articulates plans for protection	Meets own emotional needs	Is resilient	Is tolerant	Is stable	Expresses love, empathy, sensitivity to the child	Is positively attached with child	Is aligned and supports the child
Amy Koch	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Blake Thomas	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

<b>Parent/Legal Guardian Protective Capacity Determination Summary:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Protective capacities are sufficient to manage identified threats of danger in relation to child's vulnerability?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### VI. CHILD SAFETY DETERMINATION AND SUMMARY

*If there are more than five children to assess, complete Appendix B – Child Safety Determination and Summary*

Child	Safety Determination
Micah Thomas	<input type="checkbox"/> Safe – No impending danger safety threats that meet the safety threshold. <input type="checkbox"/> Safe – Impending danger threats are being effectively controlled and managed by a parent/legal guardian in the home. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsafe
Makenzie Thomas	<input type="checkbox"/> Safe – No impending danger safety threats that meet the safety threshold. <input type="checkbox"/> Safe – Impending danger threats are being effectively controlled and managed by a parent/legal guardian in the home. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsafe
	<input type="checkbox"/> Safe – No impending danger safety threats that meet the safety threshold.



# FLORIDA SAFETY DECISION MAKING METHODOLOGY

## Information Collection and Family Functioning Assessment

	<input type="checkbox"/> Safe – Impending danger threats are being effectively controlled and managed by a parent/legal guardian in the home. <input type="checkbox"/> Unsafe
	<input type="checkbox"/> Safe – No impending danger safety threats that meet the safety threshold. <input type="checkbox"/> Safe – Impending danger threats are being effectively controlled and managed by a parent/legal guardian in the home. <input type="checkbox"/> Unsafe
	<input type="checkbox"/> Safe – No impending danger safety threats that meet the safety threshold. <input type="checkbox"/> Safe – Impending danger threats are being effectively controlled and managed by a parent/legal guardian in the home. <input type="checkbox"/> Unsafe

**Child Safety Analysis Summary:**

Micah Thomas, 33 month old, and Makenzie Thomas, 9 year old, have been subjected to chronic neglect by both of their parents for the past several months. Mr. Thomas and Ms. Croft both have uncontrolled substance use, that has resulted in their current incarceration. In addition, Mr. Thomas is responsible for “physically assaulting Ms. Croft ” that resulted in physical injury, a conviction and his current period of probation. At the time of this report, Ms. Croft was not living with Mr. Thomas due to her “fear” of him. Neither Ms. Croft or Mr. Thomas possesses the protective capacities necessary to defer their own needs in favor of their children and provide for their basic needs.

### VII. IN-HOME SAFETY ANALYSIS AND PLANNING

	Yes	No
The Parent/Legal Guardians are willing for an in-home safety plan to be developed and implemented and have demonstrated that they will cooperate with all identified safety service providers.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The home environment is calm and consistent enough for an in-home safety plan to be implemented and for safety service providers to be in the home safely.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Safety services are available at a sufficient level and to the degree necessary in order to manage the way in which impending danger is manifested in the home.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
An in-home safety plan and the use of in-home safety services can sufficiently manage impending danger without the results of scheduled professional evaluations.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Parent/Legal Guardians have a physical location in which to implement an in-home safety plan.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**If “Yes” to all of SECTION VII. above – Child(ren) will remain in the home with an In-Home Safety Plan**

**In-Home Safety Plan**

The child(ren) is/are determined “unsafe,” but through in-home safety analysis above, an in-home Impending Danger Safety Plan is executed which allows a child to remain in the home with the use of in-home safety management and services in order to manage the way in which impending danger is manifested in the home while treatment and safety management services can be determined and initiated.

- ❖ A safety plan must be implemented, monitored, and actively managed by the Agency.
- ❖ The case will be opened for safety management and case management services



## FLORIDA SAFETY DECISION MAKING METHODOLOGY Information Collection and Family Functioning Assessment

If “No” to any of SECTION VII. above – Out of Home Safety Plan is the only protective intervention possible for one or more children. Out of Home Safety options should be evaluated from least intrusive (e.g. family-designated arrangements as a task or condition of the Out of Home Safety Plan) to most intrusive (e.g. agency removal and placement).

Given family dynamics and circumstances, also evaluate and determine if In-Home Safety Plan needs judicial oversight to facilitate court accountability. Refer to administrative code and operating manual for guidance.

**Out-of-Home Safety Plan**

- ❖ An impending danger safety plan must be implemented, monitored, and actively managed by the Agency.
- ❖ The case will be open for safety management, case management, and reunification services

**If an Out-of-home Safety Plan is necessary, summarize reason for out of home safety actions and conditions for return. Conditions for return should be related to reasons for removal and behaviorally based. These are parent/legal guardian actions and behaviors that must be demonstrated to sufficiently address the impending danger and allow for the child to safely return home with an In Home Safety Plan and continued safety and case plan services and management.**

Conditions for return are based upon the parent(s) obtaining housing with an environment that is calm and consistent for in home services to be provided. Calm and consistent conditions include the absence of any physical violence, drug production or use, and predictable routines for scheduling in-home safety providers. In addition, safety services will need to be identified that would control for the safety of Micah and Makenzie for an in home safety plan to be established. Safety services would address the safety of Micah and Makenzie while his parent(s) are absent from the home or when they are not performing parenting duties, such as responding to both childrens' need for supervision, assisting Micah with potty-training, ensuring that Michah's care is not dependent on Makenzie to take actions, and assisting Makenzie with her homework.