

Alternative Response Training Overview

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What does the
AR training
entail?

Self-Paced unit: Foundations of Alternative Response

- 2 hours SPO
- Occurs during Week 6 of Initial training block
- All new workers

Classroom training: Alternative Response

- 7 hours F2F (Zoom since 3/20)
- Occurs during Week 6 of Initial Training block
- All new workers

Foundations of AR: Self-paced unit

Learning Objectives:

1. Understand the difference between Alternative Response and Traditional Response.
2. Understand the intake process for Alternative Response.
3. Understand exclusionary and RED Team criteria.
4. Understand what causes an Alternative Response case to change to a Traditional Response case.
5. Understand the response times and initial contact protocol.
6. Understand the importance of and how to complete the PFQ.
7. Be aware of the AR Brochure, AR Family Plan, and Consent form.
8. Remember the six protective factors.

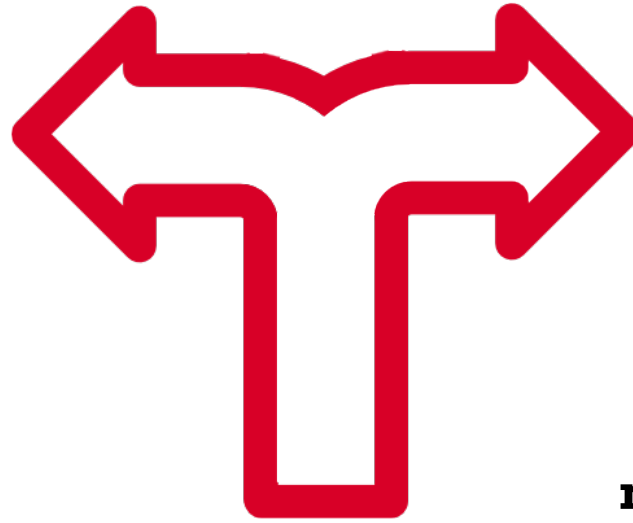
Alternative Response
is a program
designed to partner with families
to increase safety
and lower the likelihood of future abuse or neglect
to children
while helping families and communities connect.



Traditional Response

**Severe
maltreatment
allegations**

- Safety Assessment
- Risk Assessment
- FSNA



SDM

Assessments

**Child Safety
Permanency
Well-being**

Alternative Response

**Less severe
maltreatment allegations**

- Safety Assessment
- Prevention Assessment

**Traditional
Response**

**Alternative
Response**

Child Safety

1
PRIORITY



Alternative Response

Traditional Response



Services and support are

VOLUNTARY

once the Department establishes
safety and the comprehensive
assessment is complete.

Legislation was passed to pilot AR through July 1, 2017

Piloted in five counties

Expanded into five jurisdictions

Legislation was passed to pilot AR statewide through 2020

May 12, 2021 Regulations took effect (Governor signed 5/7/21)

Alternative Response is a pilot program.



Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 28-712 and 28-710.01, contemplated by Neb. Rev. Stat. § 28-710.01

Legislation is required if AR is to become a permanent program.

November 14, 2020 LB 1061 became law



Traditional Response

One or more Exclusionary Criteria are present.



Considered for Alternative Response

Exclusionary Criteria

NO Exclusionary Criteria are present.

REVIEW
EVALUATE
DECIDE
RED

Team Criteria



NO RED Team Criteria are Present



AR-eligible





RED Team Criteria

RED Team Criteria
are Present

RED Team
Assigns Family to TR

**Traditional
Response**

**RED Team
Convenes**

RED Team:
AR-eligible

**Alternative
Response**

Exclusionary Criteria

Examples:

Sex Trafficking

**Prior death of a
child**

**Household member
illegally
manufactures meth,
opioids, or other
controlled
substance**

Severe physical abuse

Sexual abuse

**Child resides
with HH
members whose
parental rights
were terminated**



RED Team Criteria

Examples:

- Caregiver exhibiting symptoms of significant mental illness.
- A traditional response case with children under five years old that closed successfully.



Process

You are assigned an AR family.

You visit the family in their home.

You discover Exclusionary Criteria present.

You discover RED Team Criteria present.

Consult with your supervisor.

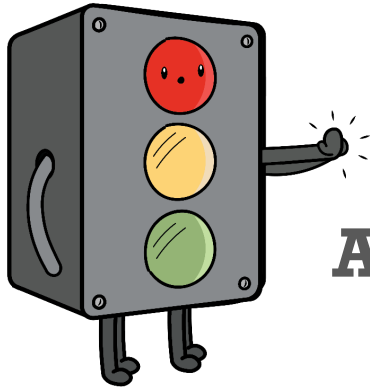


Law Enforcement

Law Enforcement Involvement

AR Eligible

- Law enforcement places a child on 72 hour EPC hold AND dismisses the case AND any involvement after the 72 hour hold
- Law enforcement made contact regarding intake but will not pursue further investigation and no citations are issued for child



AR Ineligible

- Law enforcement issues a citation for child abuse or neglect AND it has been filed in court
- Child Advocacy Center coordination is required
- Law enforcement is conducting an ongoing investigation

Exclusionary Criteria RED Team Criteria Activity

Alternative Response Classroom unit

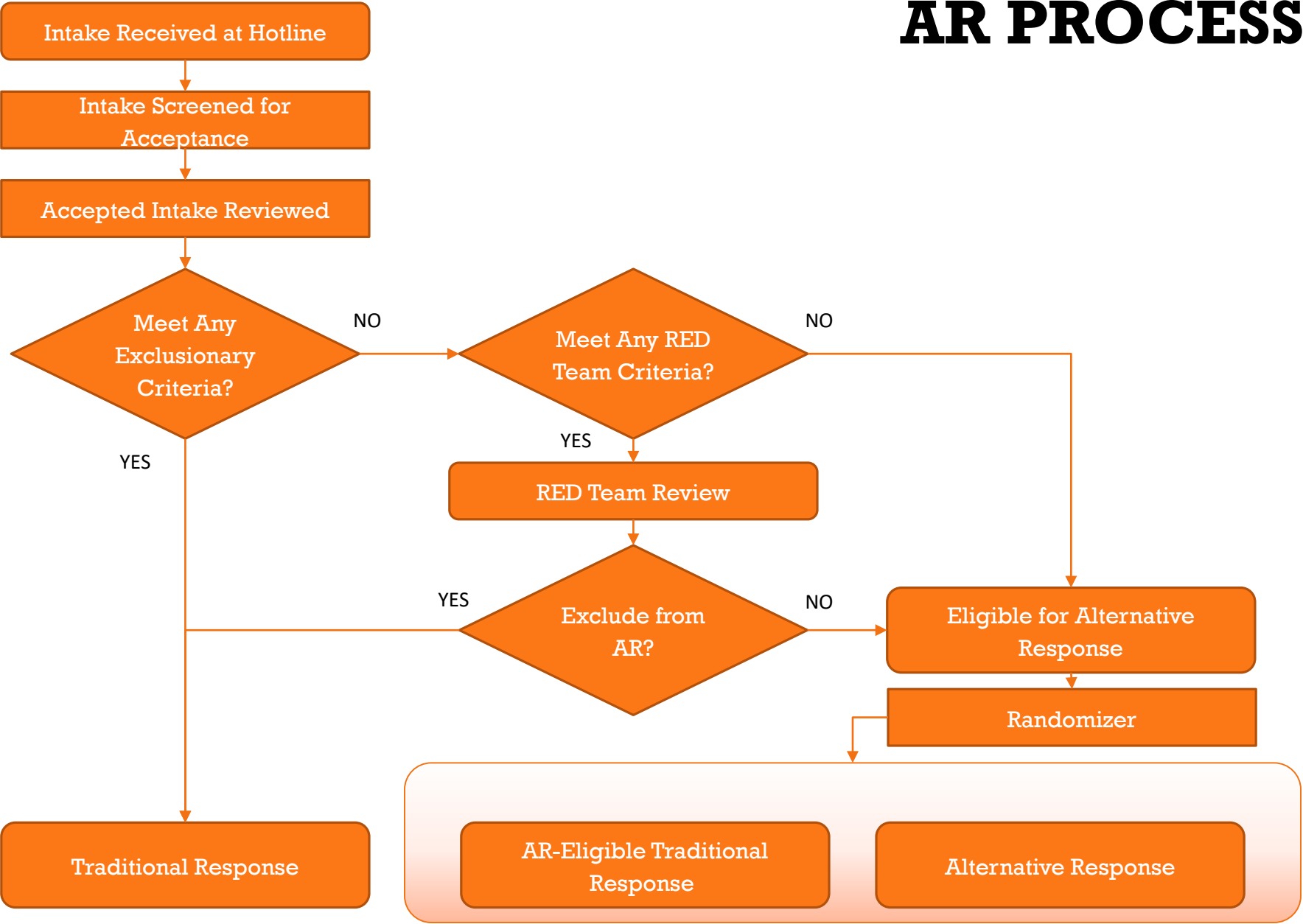
Learning Objectives

1. Be able to explain Alternative Response and Traditional Response.
1. Be able to identify, apply, and respond to exclusionary and R.E.D. Team criteria in family situations.
1. Be able to identify what causes an Alternative Response case to change to a Traditional Response case.
1. Be able to demonstrate an Alternative Response initial contact.
1. Understand and demonstrate how to explain, complete, and utilize the Protective Factors Questionnaire.
1. Be able to explain the Alternative Response brochure and Consent form.
1. Be able to explain and develop a Family Plan.
1. Understand case mapping as it relates to group supervision.
1. Understand community supports and services available to Alternative Response families.
1. Understand when and how to utilize funds with DCFS purchase cards.
1. Understand how and where to document in an Alternative Response case.
1. Be able to recognize when an Alternative Response case is ready for closure.
1. Understand steps involved in closing an Alternative Response case.

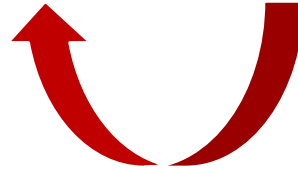
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Review of Online Training

AR PROCESS



Traditional Response



Alternative Response

- a safety threat is present that cannot be managed through an in-home safety plan
- DCFS cannot assess child's safety
- Law enforcement notifies the Department that they will continue investigating the child abuse or neglect
- Intake Accepted for Assessment
- the caretaker receiving Alternative Response requests Traditional Response
- the Department learns a household member allegedly caused the death of a child

Mandatory
Reassignment
of
TRACK
CLEARANCE

	Traditional Response	Alternative Response
Allegations	More severe	Less severe
Labels	Perpetrator, Victim	Caregiver, Child
Law Enforcement	Possibly involved, possible ticket	No involvement
Interview Protocol	Alleged victim 1 st , unannounced visits	Caregiver 1 st , request permission to visit
Finding	Finding & Possible Central Registry	No finding
Contact Requirements	IA: As needed, or weekly with safety plan Ongoing: Based on risk level	No Safety Threats-- IA: First 30 days--3 face to face + phone Ongoing: 2 nd month to closure—2 face to face + phone Safety Threats- Weekly face to face
Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided after thorough SDM assessment • \$\$ for services requires supervisor approval • <i>Case Plan</i>, might be court mandated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided as soon as need is identified • \$\$ for concrete support services without supervisory approval • <i>Family Plan</i>, services are voluntary (as long as safety is assured)

Traditional Response and Alternative Response

Child Safety #1 Priority

Promote safety, permanency, and well-being

Help Families

Engage Families

Recognize That Families Are the Experts/Utilizing Informal Support Systems

Active Listening/Empathy

Utilizing Informal Support Systems

Utilize SDM to Drive Case Management Decisions

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Alternative response Process

DAVIS Family



Child Abuse/Neglect

Intake Worksheet

RECORDS CHECK

MC Program St Begin Dt

- All Program Cases
- CPS Registry (both C1 and N-FOCUS)
- APS Registry
- Criminal History
- Sexual Offender Register

ALTERNATIVE RESPONSE

Intake Number: 00000076 **Intake Name:** Maureen Davis

Status Reason: Alternative Response

Priority: 2

Date Received: 10-15-2018 **Time Received:** 15:16:00

Source: Phone Call

Received By: **Hotline Worker**
OMAHA-3737 LAKE ST

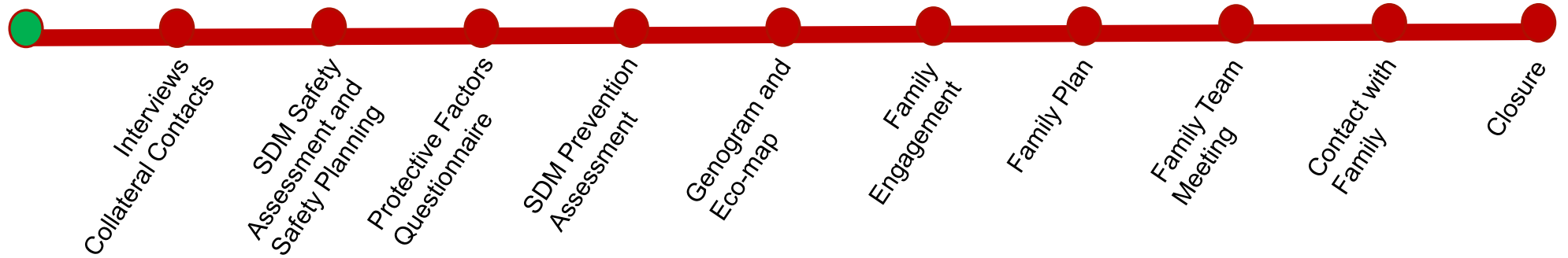
Worker Assigned: **LILY ROSE**
5220 S. 16th Street
LINCOLN NE 685080000
402-471-6663

Date Assigned: 10-15-2018

County of Incident: Lancaster

Gathering Information

- Verify if family has had prior involvement with the Department and review internal information
- Contact Economic Assistance to understand benefits family may be eligible to receive @ DHHS.EconomicAssistancePolicyQuestions@nebraska.gov



Initial Contact

Traditional Response

Priority 1

0-24 hours

Make an announced visit.

Priority 2

0-5 calendar days

Priority 3

0-10 calendar days.

Alternative

Alternative Response

Call family to schedule an appointment.

Response Time

Five days

from the date

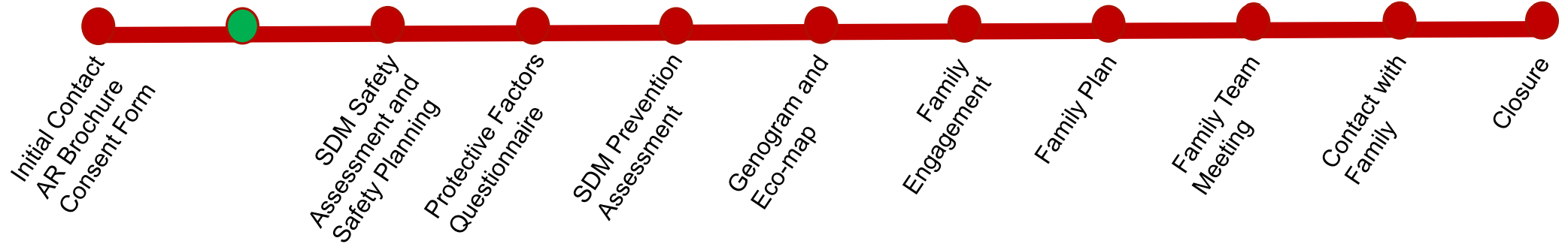
intake was

accepted.



In

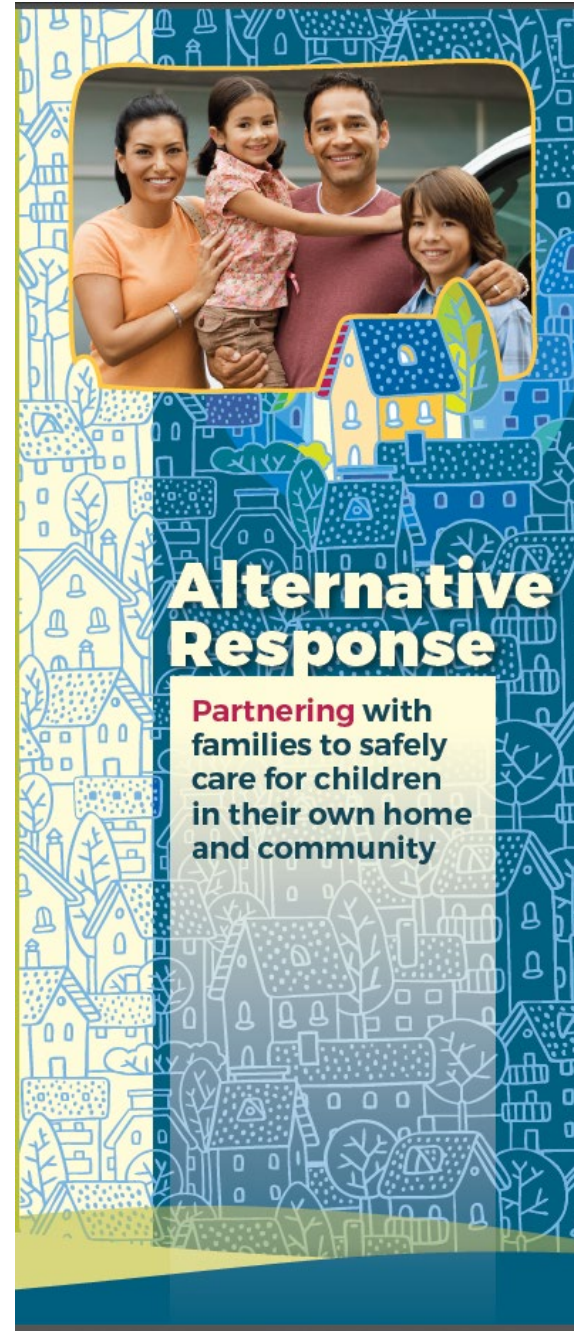




Interviews and Collateral Contacts



AR BROCHURE



AR CONSENT FORM



Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Children and Family Services (Alternative Response)
CONSENT TO ALTERNATIVE RESPONSE ASSESSMENT

I, _____, have been advised by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services that my family is eligible to receive an Alternative Response assessment.

I understand that the assessment of my children's safety is not optional, and that if I do not wish to receive an Alternative Response assessment, that a traditional investigation will be conducted regarding the safety of my children.

The following information has been explained to me:

- In order for DHHS to complete an Alternative Response assessment, a DHHS caseworker will have contact with my family, including my children. There may be times when this contact occurs in my family home.
- After my caseworker has determined my children are safe and has completed a comprehensive assessment of my family, we are not required to participate in Alternative Response and may choose to end our participation at any time with no action taken against my family.
- My DHHS caseworker is a mandatory reporter under state law, and if at any time during contact with my family, my caseworker has reason to believe my children are unsafe, the law requires that the caseworker report this information.
- If my children are determined to be unsafe by my DHHS caseworker, my family may no longer be eligible to receive an Alternative Response, and a traditional investigation may begin. My caseworker will notify me if this transition is necessary.
- DHHS may determine that Alternative Response is no longer appropriate for my family and end our Alternative Response. My caseworker will notify me if this occurs.
- I have the right to speak with an attorney, at my own expense, at any point during my cooperation with the DHHS.

I acknowledge that I have been provided with the Alternative Response informational pamphlet and have had an opportunity to review that pamphlet and ask questions regarding the information contained in the pamphlet.

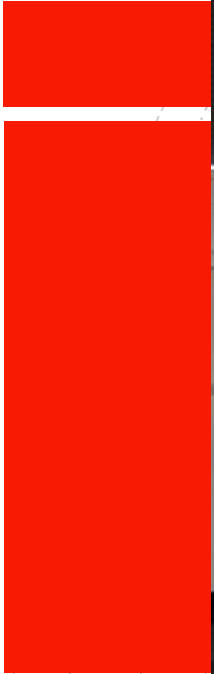
Information regarding Alternative Response has been shared with me and I, _____, desire for my family to participate in Alternative Response and consent to my family having continued contact with our caseworker.

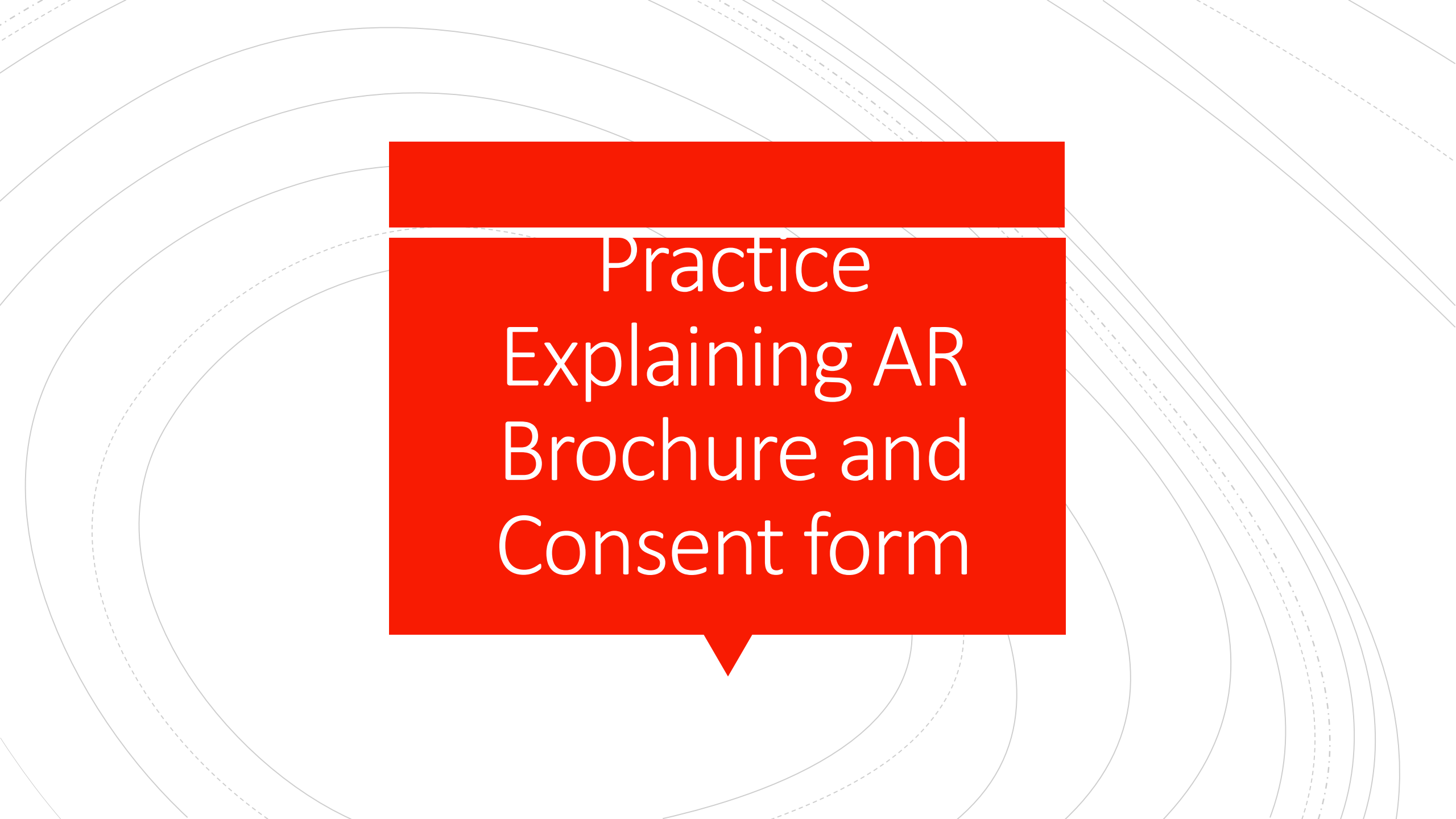
Parent/Guardian Signature	Date
Parent/Guardian Signature	Date

Mark the box if the Parent/Guardian declined to sign consent form.

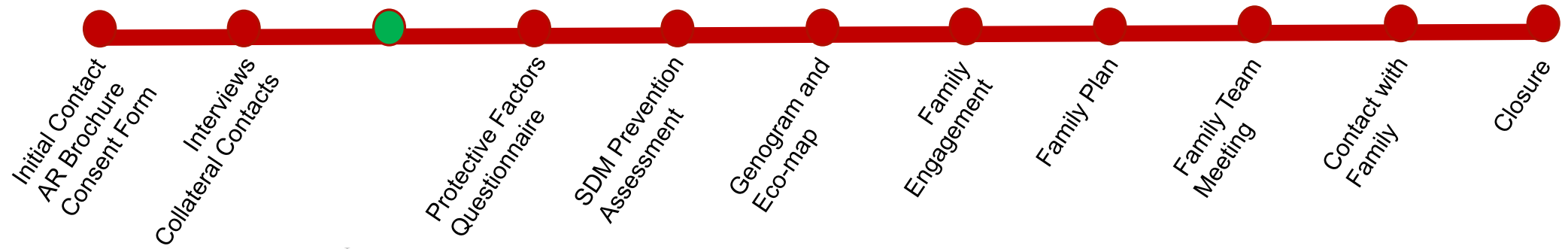
Dates presented to the family and explanation:





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Practice
Explaining AR
Brochure and
Consent form



SDM Safety Assessment and Safety Planning

~~SDM Safety Plan~~
SDM Safety Plan
must be documented on N-
FOCUS within 24 hours.



What Are the Nebraska Protective Factors??

1. Nurturing and Attachment

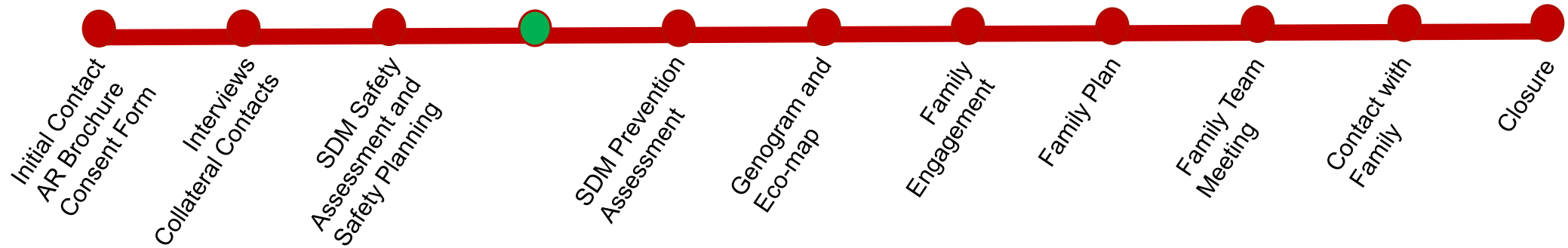
2. Knowledge of Parenting and of Child and Youth Development

3. Parental Resilience

4. Social Connections

5. Concrete Supports for Parents

6. Social and Emotional Competence of Children



Protective Factors Questionnaire (PFQ)

Nebraska Protective Factors

1. Nurturing and Attachment
2. Knowledge of Parenting and of Child and Youth Development
3. Parental Resilience Must be completed within 30 days from the date the intake
4. Social Connections
5. Concrete Supports for Parents was accepted for assessment.
6. Social and Emotional Competence of Children



Purchase Cards

- **Services**
 - Enhance parental protective factor
 - Mitigate safety and/or concern for child safety
 - Reduce future risk of maltreatment
- Used only when all other funding resources have been exhausted
- CFS Specialist can utilize up to \$500 without supervisory approval
- > \$500 - \$1000 = requires Supervisory approval
- > \$1000 = requires CFS Administrator approval
- > \$2000 = requires SA Administrator approval and AR Program Specialist approval
- Documentation on Sharepoint required within 72 hours of authorization
 - Scan receipt into N-FOCUS

Up to \$500 per family

Can be used for the following:

Food, including formula

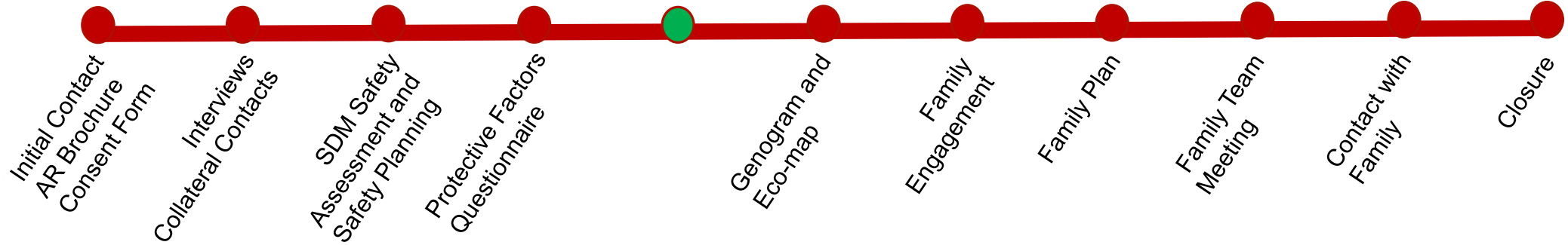
Initial clothing needs, including
diapers

Identification cards (i.e.,
associated fees, etc.)

Housing

- One-time deposit
- Rent per month
- Housing repairs
- Household items
- Assistance with utilities

- Pest control
- Garbage removal
- Transportation
 - Personal vehicle expenses
 - Taxi, bus pass, handi-van, truck for moving, other
- Medications
- Lab work
 - \$500 Supervisor approval
 - \$1000 Admin approval
 - \$2000 SAA approval & Mikayla
- Child care
- Medical and Mental Health Services



SDM Prevention Assessment

**SDM Prevention
Assessment must be
completed and
documented
within 60 days after the
intake
was accepted for
assessment.**

SDM PREVENTION ASSESSMENT

DHHS.PSPolicyandGuid@nebraska.gov

I. COMPLETING THE PREVENTION ASSESSMENT.

- A. The prevention assessment is completed based on conditions that exist at the start of the initial assessment or referral to ongoing services. An SDM prevention assessment must be completed on each household that is involved in the referral.
- B. The CFS Specialist should refer to the policy definitions to determine his/her selection for each item.

C. Section 1: Neglect/Abuse Index

1. P1. Prior investigations of any household adult

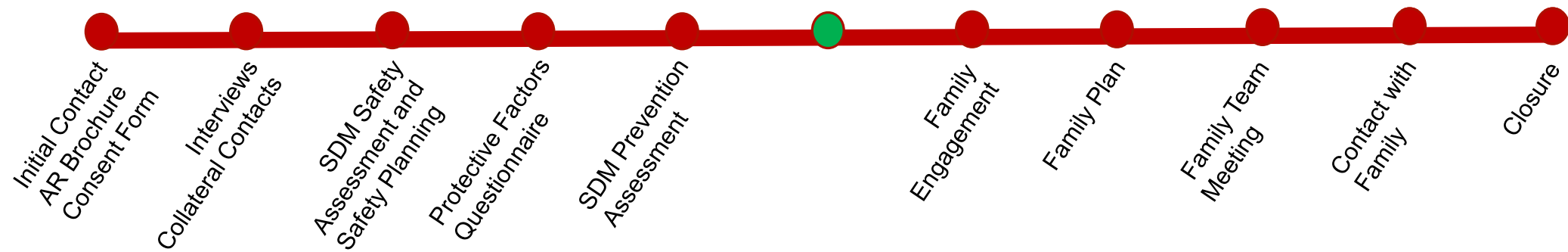
Assess prior DHHS or other CPS history. Determine if there are any prior intakes, excluding those accepted as dependency, Alternative Response, duplicate/multiple reports, information only, and law enforcement only, involving any adult members of the current household as alleged perpetrators for any type of neglect or abuse, regardless of finding. Keep in mind that one intake may involve multiple allegations and/or multiple children, but will still be counted as one intake. Exclude investigations of out-of-home perpetrators (e.g., daycare) unless one or more caregivers failed to protect. Where possible, history from other jurisdictions should be included.

Answer both P1a and P1b, indicating the number of prior neglect investigations and the number of prior abuse investigations.

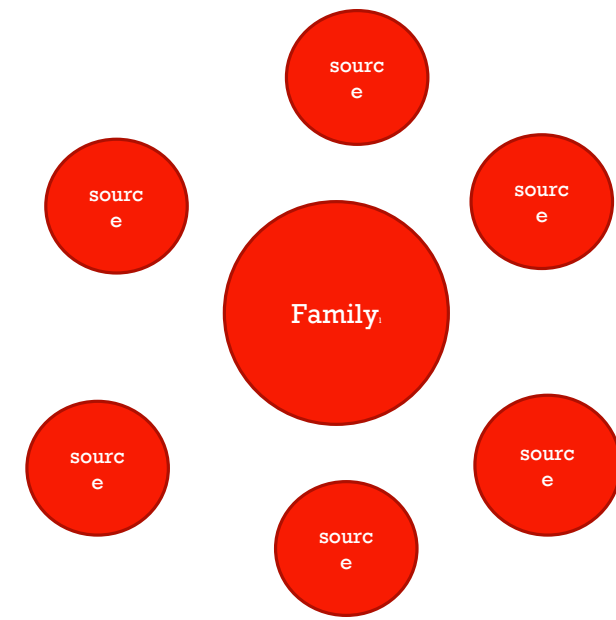
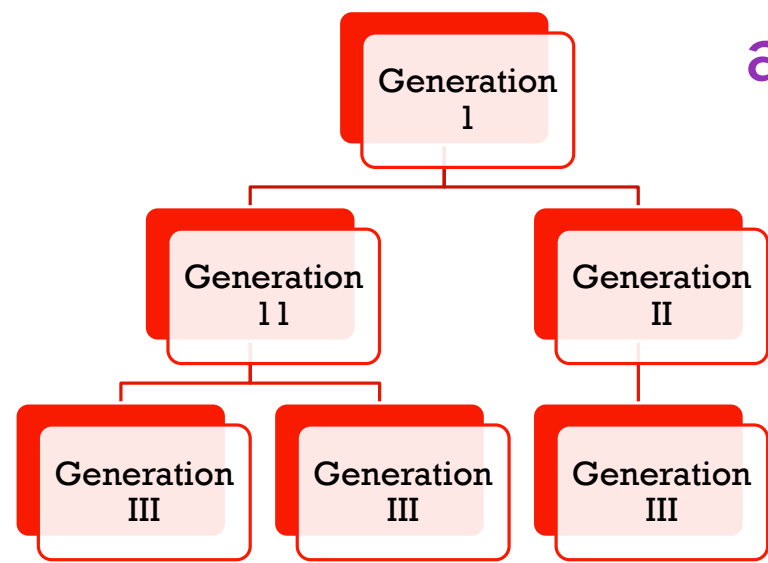
- a. Neglect includes general neglect or abandonment, and if the caregiver is absent or incapacitated.
- b. Abuse includes physical abuse, emotional abuse, and sexual abuse/sexual exploitation.

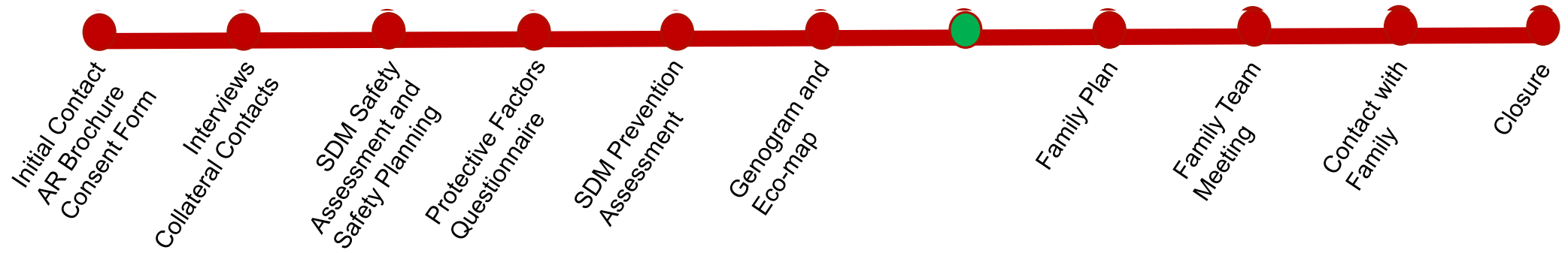
P1. Prior investigations of any household adult	Neglect Score	Abuse Score
<input type="checkbox"/> a. No	-1	0
<input type="checkbox"/> b. Yes	0	0
P1a. Prior neglect (select one)		
<input type="checkbox"/> a. None	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> b. One or Two	2	0
<input type="checkbox"/> c. Three or More	3	0
P1b. Prior Abuse (select one)		
<input type="checkbox"/> a. None	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> b. One	1	1
<input type="checkbox"/> c. Two or More	1	2





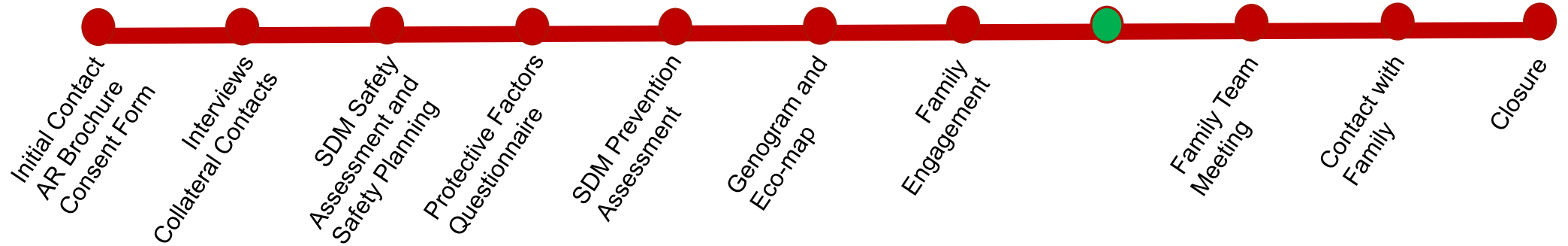
Genogram and Eco-map





Family Engagement





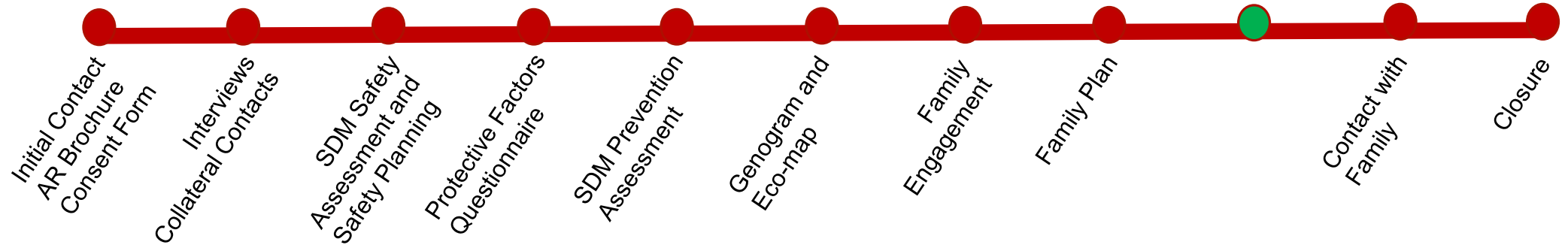
Family Plan Form CSS-44

1. Family Needs
2. How do we get there?
3. Who or what can help us?

**Must be completed within
60 days from the date the
intake
was accepted for
assessment.**

FAMILY PLAN			
<input type="checkbox"/> Initial		<input type="checkbox"/> Review	
<input type="checkbox"/> Closing			
Name Family Plan _____			
Date _____			
1. Family Need(s): _____			
2. How do we get there? _____			
3. Who or what can help us? _____			
4. Plan created by: _____			
Signature _____		Date _____	
Signature _____		Date _____	
Signature _____		Date _____	
<small>CFS-44 (24446) 9/14</small>			



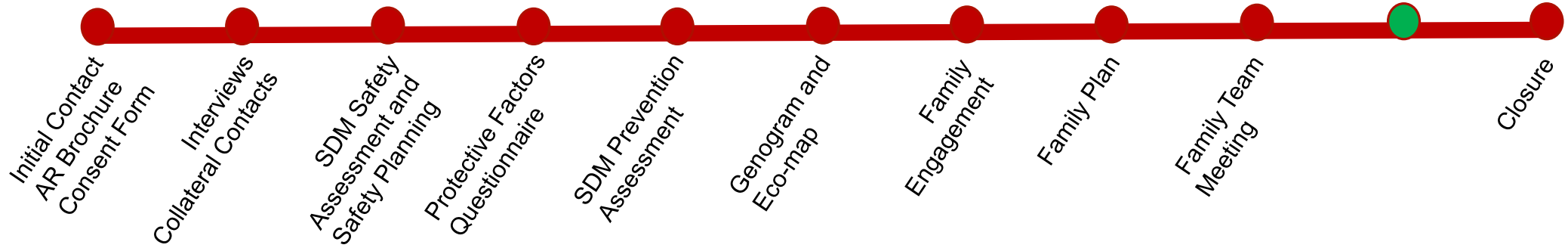


Family Team Meeting



Davis family
plan activity





Contacts with the Family

No Safety Threats

First month:

- Minimum of three face-to-face contacts in addition to phone contact.

Second month to Closure:

- Minimum of two face-to-face contacts in addition to phone contact.

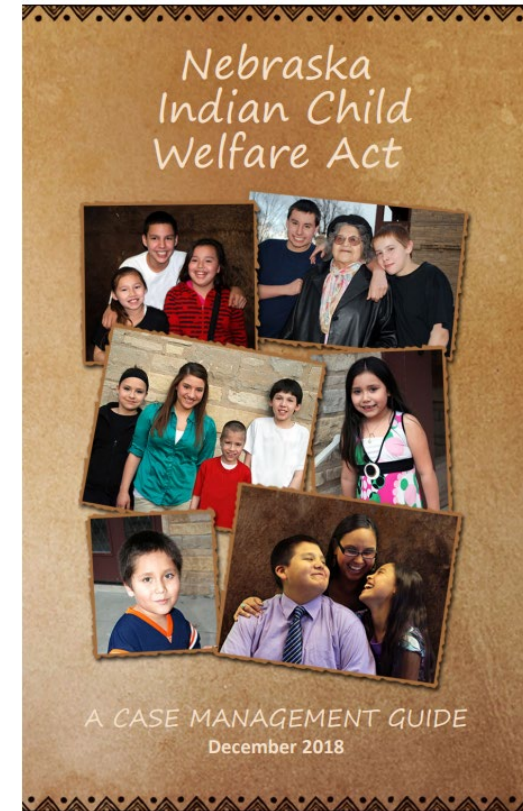
Safety Threats

- Weekly contact



ICWA

- Active efforts and tribal notifications apply to families receiving AR just as they are applied with TR families.
- CFS Specialist must send Tribal Notices within 5 days of offering services in an AR case.
 - Same notice used for non-court cases is used for AR cases.

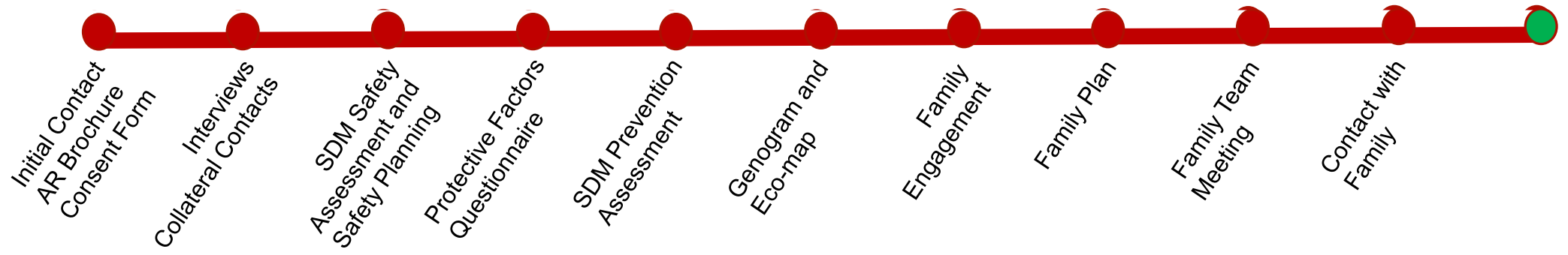


Individual Supervision



Supervision & Case Mapping

- Per current policy and procedure
- Supervisor is responsible to coach and engage staff
- Mandatory consultation required at 90 and 180 days



Closure



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