

# TO BE OR NOT TO BE...IMMINENT RISK

**Directions:** Each of the following scenarios has been reported to your agency. Which should be considered as possibly meeting the definition of imminent risk as established by the CPSL? List the factors leading to your determination.

1. A psychotic young woman gives birth to a baby boy. The hospital reports the birth to the county agency due to concerns around her ability to parent this child. She is extremely paranoid, and stated many times prior to the birth that she prayed for a girl because a boy would be the demon. Her history includes extensive sexual and physical abuse at the hands of her father. She relates only to women and becomes aggressive when approached by any male on the hospital staff. An older sibling was removed from her care three years ago, after she beat the child extensively. That child was also a male. The mother is to be discharged soon. She will continue to be serviced by outpatient mental health. The hospital believes the child to be in danger if discharged with the mother.
2. A two-month-old infant is being cared for by its father while its mother works. The infant has cried for nearly two hours and all efforts by the father to calm the child have failed. The father loses control and shakes the infant violently for about 15 seconds at which time the mother comes home and after a struggle, manages to stop the father from shaking the infant. The child suffered no visible injuries or condition as a result. The father indicates that shaking the infant in the past stopped the crying.
3. A mother of three children loses her apartment and moves in with her father, who sexually abused her for many years. She often allows her father to care for the children while she goes out at night.
4. A mother of three children moves in with a female friend after losing her own apartment. The friend has a boyfriend, who unbeknownst to the mother, has a prior conviction of sexually assaulting children. The boyfriend volunteers to watch the children while the mother looks for a job.