

Imminent Risk

Imminent Risk is defined by the Child Protective Services Act as:

- Any recent act or failure to act, or any series of such acts or failures to act, by a perpetrator that creates an imminent risk of serious physical injury to or sexual abuse or sexual exploitation of a child under 18 years of age.
- To substantiate imminent risk of serious physical injury or sexual abuse/exploitation:
 - A specific act or failure to act must be documented;
 - The act or failure to act must result in risk of abuse-- i.e. be supported by substantial evidence that serious physical injury or sexual abuse/exploitation would have occurred.

Imminent:

“Ready to take place” so the time frame for consideration is the time during or immediately following the act or failure to act.

Risk:

May be defined as a dangerous element or factor.

In order to substantiate an act or failure to act as imminent risk, several findings must be made:

- ✓ The victim must be a child under age 18 and there must be an identified perpetrator.
- ✓ The act or failure to act must be non-accidental.
- ✓ The allegation must pertain to serious physical injury or sexual abuse or exploitation. Serious mental injury and serious physical neglect do not apply.
- ✓ It must be a recent act, in other words, it must have occurred within two years of the date of the report.
- ✓ A specific act or failure to act must have taken place.