



## What would I need to commit to if I become a member of a safety network?

As a safety network member, you may be asked to attend a Signs of Safety meeting that will explain what the worry is for the child if nothing changes. This is called a danger statement. A safety goal will be created which outlines what the family needs to achieve so that everyone, including child protection workers, know the child will be safe. The danger statement and safety goal will be included in the safety plan and the safety plan will show how the family will achieve the safety goal.

The safety plan should be reviewed regularly and whenever there are big changes in a family. Safety network members will usually come to these meetings.

If you are asked to be a member of someone's safety network, think about:

- What do you know about the family and about how they keep their children safe?
- What worries do you have about the child and their safety?
- What do you already do to support the family?

- Who helps support the family when they need help?
- What would you do if you were worried that the safety plan was not working or that the child might not be safe? Would you feel comfortable talking to the parents and other safety network members about your worries?
- If you have been told about the worries already, what could you do to help the family work toward the safety goal?

If you have agreed to be in someone's safety network, the safety plan should be clear about the role of each person in the safety network and the things you agree to do to support the child and keep the child safe.

If you have any questions about what being in a safety network involves, you should speak with the child protection worker.

### Department of Communities

189 Royal Street, East Perth WA 6004

PO Address: PO Box 6334, East Perth WA 6892

Telephone: 08 6217 6888

Country callers: 1800 176 888

Email: [enquiries@communities.wa.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@communities.wa.gov.au)

Website: [www.communities.wa.gov.au](http://www.communities.wa.gov.au)

Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) –  
Telephone: 13 14 50

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# Signs of Safety

# Safety Networks





The Department of Communities – Child Protection and Family Support division (Communities) works under the Children and Community Services Act (2004). When Communities is working with families the aim is to support parents, families and communities to keep children safe at home. If the decision is made for a child to come into care, the aim is to keep children with their extended families. If this is not possible, Communities will try to maintain children's connection to family, community, country and culture.

You can find more information about the Children and Community Services Act online at [www.legislation.wa.gov.au](http://www.legislation.wa.gov.au).

## What is a Safety Network?

A Safety Network is a group of strong and safe people who can help the parents keep the children safe in the future, even after Communities have stopped working with the family. A safe person should live in a way that shows they know what will help keep the child strong and healthy, as well as what the child needs to be kept away from so they don't feel bad, scared or get hurt.

### Safety Network Members

Cares for the child and wants to support them

Knows the concerns for the children's safety

Willing to work with Communities

Helps work out details of a safety plan

## Why is a safety network needed?

Communities becomes involved with families when they are worried about the safety of a child and how the parents might keep the child safe in the future. When Communities and the family work together to create a safety plan, the safety network is the people who help the parents create safety for the child as the parents work to achieve the safety goal.

The safety network is intended to provide long term connections for the child, so the child can stay safely with their family or can return home to their family.

