

We recognize this may be one of the most difficult times in your life. Working with child protection services and the other agencies involved can often be complicated, intimidating and confusing. Our Safety and Well-Being Clinic is a program specifically designed to address the concerns of social services and to give you every opportunity to demonstrate the safety and well-being of your children.

Our primary goal is the safety and well-being of your children. We work collaboratively with the social service agency, other agencies involved, your family and your supports to achieve this goal. Gaining a clear understanding of the worries is vital, so we will work with you and the agency to gain clarity about the concerns. It's equally important for everyone involved to agree upon the goals that need to be accomplished to address the worries. These goals will be the vision that will help guide our work together.

Our Safety and Well-Being Clinic is based on a framework called Signs of Safety. The framework is focused on building working relationships with families and all professionals involved while staying focused on safety. We work hard to help everyone identify the things you already do to keep your kids safe and build on those strengths to create confidence for future safety. For more information about this framework visit [www.signsofsafety.net](http://www.signsofsafety.net). SafeGenerations consults directly with one of the co-founders of this approach, Dr. Turnell.

### **What might the safety planning process look like for your family?**

**Mapping** - A simple way to walk through three questions that help us gain clarity about your perspective...What is going well? What are we worried about? What needs to happen?

**Safety Network** - We will work with you to develop a safety network of friends and family who will continue to support you after the social service agency closes. These people can help show the agency and SafeGenerations that your children will be safe long-term. We will have regular meetings with you and your safety network.

**Safety and/or Well-Being Plan** - We work with you and your network to develop an agreement about what everyone will do in day to day life to demonstrate your children are safe and well cared for. We'll practice this plan, test the plan and make adjustments along the way.

**Words & Pictures** - Developing an explanation for your child and safety network on what lead to the social service agency becoming involved and what everyone is doing about it. We will develop the words and pictures together with input from the social service agency.

**Involving your Children** - The Signs of Safety approach puts children and teens in the middle of the work using very specific age-appropriate tools and practices.

**Questions** - Signs of Safety is a Questioning Approach. Be ready for lots of questions! We don't want to get in the habit of telling you what we think you should do so, we will be asking you and your safety network lots of questions to help you think through the situation and to come up with your own solutions that work for you and your family!

**Safety and Well-Being Clinic Staff** - Our team has been working with families who are involved in the child protection system since 2005. In our work with families our focus is on the safety and well-being of children. We have interacted with social workers, county attorneys, defense attorneys, guardian ad litem, treatment providers and others across the child protection system. We have been involved in training or implementation of Signs of Safety in Minnesota, several other states in the US, and several regions in Canada. Since starting this work, we have attended yearly Signs of Safety training with Dr. Andrew Turnell and have regular video consultations with him.

Our Safety and Well-Being Clinic team consists of five full-time practitioners:



Andrea Robideau, MA, LMFT



Ben Bevis, MA, LMFT, CLC



Bill Schulenberg, MA, LMFT



Sarah Sundman, MA, LICSW



Sherry Amelse, BA, LSW

**Referral Process** - The social worker will contact SafeGenerations to make the referral to our Safety and Well-Being Clinic. The social worker will request that you sign a release of information so information can be shared about the agency's work with your family. After we receive the referral form and release of information we will contact you to schedule our first appointment. The first appointment is an opportunity for you to decide if our services are right for you and for us to decide if your situation is a good fit for our program.

**Financial Information** - SafeGenerations has contracts with Blue Cross Blue Shield, Preferred One, Medical Assistance, and directly with some counties in Minnesota. Some of the services may qualify for reimbursement through your insurance agency. An agreement for how payments will be processed will be confirmed with the social service agency, yourself and SafeGenerations prior to starting our work together.

**Safety and Well-Being Clinic Learning Lab** - You may choose to participate in the "Safety and Well-Being Clinic Learning Lab," which allows your sessions to be observed by social workers or other child welfare professionals who are interested in growing their practice. If you choose to participate, they will observe the sessions in a separate observation room or from secure live feed video. This option is completely voluntary and declining to participate in the learning lab will not impact your work with SafeGenerations or the social service agency.

**Do you have questions?** Feel free to ask your social worker or call us directly at 952-448-3625.