

Right Care, Right Person

Mythbusting



What is considered a real & immediate threat to life?

A 'real' risk is one that is objectively verified and is not remote or fanciful. An 'immediate' threat is one that is present and continuing - happening now, rather than a future threat or a conditional one.

A risk that is conditional on some other event or which may arise at some point in the future, is not considered real and immediate.



What is considered to be significant harm to a child?

There are no absolute criteria on which to rely when judging what constitutes as 'significant harm'. However, the Children Act 1989 indicates that the child's health or development should be compared with that which could be reasonably expected of a similar child.

Sometimes, a single traumatic event may constitute significant harm, for example an assault, suffocation or poisoning. More often, significant harm is an accumulation of significant events, both acute and longstanding, which interrupt, change or damage the child's physical and psychological development. Significant harm may also include impairment suffered from seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another.



What is considered to be serious harm or injury?

'Serious harm' is a risk which is life threatening and/or traumatic, and from which recovery, whether physical or psychological, can be expected to be difficult or impossible.

Section 29 Police reform act 2002 defines 'serious injury' as a fracture, a deep cut, a deep laceration, or an injury causing damage to an internal organ or the impairment of any bodily function.

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