

# Risk Assessment Matrix

<b>PROBABLE EVENT OF HARM</b> Step 1: Assess the potential for a violation to result in harm.	<b>C) High</b>	<b>C-1</b> *(10)	<b>C-2</b> (16)	<b>C-3</b> (18)
	Harm is imminent or has occurred			
	<b>B) Medium</b>	<b>B-1</b> (8)	<b>B-2</b> (12)	<b>B-3</b> (14)
	Harm is likely to occur			
<b>A) Low</b>	<b>A-1</b> (2)	<b>A-2</b> (4)	<b>A-3</b> (6)	
Harm is not likely to occur, but possibility exists				

<b>PROBABLE SEVERITY OF HARM</b> Step 2: Assess the potential or actual degree of harm that resulted from the violation.	<b>1) Moderate</b>	<b>2) Serious</b>	<b>3) Extreme</b>
	A violation could or did cause harm at a level that would or did not require the knowledge, skills, and abilities beyond that of, e.g., a direct care staff or a teacher's aide to address. Harm at this level would not generate a serious incident report or lead to an investigation by licensing. The violation would or did not cause a disturbance or interruption of a person's daily activities and would or did not pose any significant concerns to the affected person and/or an agency responsible for protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public.	A violation could or did cause harm at a level that would or did require intervention by a professional, semi-professional, or by someone with supervisory duties in the care setting. The violation would or did cause disturbance or interruption of a person's daily activities and would or did pose significant concerns to the affected person and/or an agency responsible for protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public, but not to the degree that, e.g., hospitalization, long-term therapy, shut down of facility operations, felony charges, a law suit, etc. was needed or would need to be considered to address the harm.	A violation could or did cause harm at a level that would or did result in a disturbance or interruption of a person's daily activities and would or did pose extreme concerns to the affected person and/or an agency responsible for protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public. The violation could or did result in, e.g., death, hospitalization, temporary or permanent partial or total disability in the area of physical, emotional, and/or psychological functioning, long-term therapy, shut down of facility operations, felony charges, law suit, or other actions considered more than typical responses.

**Note:** Harm is measured on the basis of the type of intervention(s) or the level of knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to address it, and/or the consequences to the affected person(s).

\*The weight assigned to C-1, i.e., 10, is lower than the weight assigned to B-2 and B-3. Although harm is high for C-1, the severity is at a negligible to moderate level whereas there is greater concern when the risk for harm is assessed at a B-2 or B-3 level since harm is determined to be likely at a severity level of serious to extreme.

- The assessment of risk will be influenced by the following conditions:**
1. Whenever harm has resulted from a violation, the likelihood of occurrence rating must always be assessed as a "C."
  2. Whenever the degree of severity from an actual injury is less than what is normally expected to be the most likely outcome under the given conditions, the rating must always be assessed based on what is normally expected.
  3. Whenever the degree of severity from an actual injury is greater than what is normally expected to be the most likely outcome under the given conditions, the rating must always be assessed based on the actual severity.
  4. Variables that may affect the risk rating:
    - (a) Exacerbating (risk increasing) characteristics of violations to consider: nature (or type); repetition (rare, episodic, or frequent); pattern (isolated, scattered, or systemic); duration of exposure (length of impact); speed (acceleration of impact), etc.
    - (b) Exacerbating characteristics of the affected individual or population: physiological development, status of mental, emotional and physical health, etc.
    - (c) Mitigating (risk decreasing) variables: enhanced physical safety features or surveillance of building or landscape, staffing above required number, training above required KSA's, annual skills proficiency test requirement, etc.