##### 6622.4 Assigning the Severity to a Reason to Believe Disposition

LPPH DRAFT 8342-CCL (new item)

Policy

For each allegation assigned a disposition of *Reason to Believe*, the investigator determines the severity of the abuse or neglect that occurred.

Procedure

If the investigator concludes that abuse or neglect has occurred, the investigator selects the appropriate severity level for each allegation on the *Allegation* page in IMPACT according to the table below:

| Level of Severity | Assign when the finding is RTB and … |
| --- | --- |
| Mild |  • no injuries occurred • there was a threat of harm with no injuries • the child was financially exploited |
| Moderate | the child was harmed, but the injury was not serious or critical |
| Severe |  • the child was sexually abused  • the child suffered a serious injury or has a medical event that resulted or may result in impairment to the child’s overall health or well-being. |
| Near Fatal | when a medical professional determines that the child is in critical condition, such as when a child’s condition requires a stay in an intensive care unit.  |
| Fatal | the child died as a result of abuse or neglect |

A supervisor may approve assigning a higher or lower severity based on the particular circumstances of the investigation.

Also see [6524.2](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/handbooks/Licensing/Files/LPPH_pg_6400.asp#LPPH_6524_2) Assigning the Severity of the Abuse or Neglect When a Child Dies

Publication note (do not remove this note): renumber current 6622.4 and 6622.5 to accommodate new item above, as shown in the revision memo.

Publication note (do not remove this note): The entire definitions section is not shown below. The definition of “serious injury” is revised. The other two are new and need to be entered alphabetically.

## Definitions of Terms

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**serious injury:** Any physical injury to a child that requires medical treatment, but which does not result in a medical professional determining that the child is in critical condition. This does not include injuries for which a child is evaluated by a professional as a precaution.

New:

**critical injury:** See near fatal injury.

**near fatal injury:** An injury that results in a medical professional determining that the child is in critical condition, such as when a child’s condition requires a stay in an intensive care unit, and CCL determines that the child’s condition is the result of abuse or neglect.