



## AMERICAN HUMANE

*Protecting Children & Animals Since 1877*

### **Call for Abstracts**

for

American Humane's *Protecting Children* journal  
dedicated to Safety and Risk Assessments and Decision Making

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#### **American Humane's Dedication to Safety and Risk Assessments and Decision Making**

Providing for child safety, while preserving and strengthening families, is the essence of child protection. Children, youth, families, public child welfare agencies, interrelated systems, service providers, and the community collectively share this critical goal. Multiple factors, including the quality of information obtained in the assessment process, affect child welfare decision making. Safety and risk assessments conducted in a collaborative and culturally responsive manner provide critical information that informs good decision making throughout the life of a case and supports the goal of child safety.

In its work in this area, American Humane has raised the following questions:

- What policies, practices, protocols, and tools support safety and risk assessments and decision making?
- How is the active involvement of birth parents, children, youth, and their kin -- plus the value of their strengths -- assured in safety assessment, risk assessment, and decision making?
- How is clarity provided regarding the complexity, similarities, and differences of:
  - Safety assessment, planning, and management
  - Risk assessment
  - Critical decision points
  - The need for an iterative process of assessment throughout the life of the case
- What are the connections between safety, risk, and needs assessments?
- How is true cultural responsiveness integrated into tools, policies, protocols, and practices, particularly in assessing special populations (e.g., non-resident fathers, youth involved in the juvenile justice system, immigrant families, etc.)?
- How are safety and risk assessments and decision making conducted and shared across disciplines and throughout the community?
- What are the evidence-based or evidence-informed practices or strategies for effective safety and risk assessments and decision making?
- How can knowledge about decision making be used to inform practice and policies?

American Humane is committed to continuing to ask these questions and to working with people in the field to find answers.

#### **The Children's Division of American Humane**

American Humane strives to disseminate knowledge and develop supportive resources so children, families, and communities can maintain or develop positive and lasting connections and so that

individuals who are involved in this work are invigorated with research, knowledge, and practices that help achieve safety, permanency, and well-being.

The Children's Division of American Humane is a national leader in developing programs, policies, training, research, and evaluation to prevent and respond to child abuse and neglect. We work to strengthen families and communities and enhance child protection systems at the state, county and tribal levels.

### **Calling All Authors**

As part of our continued commitment to eradicating child abuse and neglect, American Humane will publish an issue of *Protecting Children* dedicated to the work that is at the core of child protection -- safety and risk assessments and decision making. The intent of this issue is to identify and share practices, approaches, research, and knowledge on inclusive, comprehensive, culturally responsive, and effective safety and risk assessments and decision making throughout the life of a child protection case.

Original conceptual, practice-based, or empirical papers are invited. Submitted abstracts should address one of the following areas:

- Examples of effective policies, practices, protocols, and tools that support safety and risk assessments and decision making
- Implementation of successful family engagement and leadership approaches in safety and risk assessments and decision making
- Demonstration of efforts to incorporate relevant, culturally responsive tools, strategies, and approaches that have had or are likely to have an impact on the disproportionate overrepresentation of children of color in the child protection system
- Successes in integrating various assessments (including safety, risk, and needs) throughout the life of a case
- Efforts to organize and use data to inform decisions
- Studies of decision-making practices or policies
- Efforts to develop information technology supports for decision makers at all levels in public and private agencies

For additional information on American Humane, please visit [www.americanhumane.org](http://www.americanhumane.org).

If you have questions regarding the appropriateness of content for submission, please email Anne Comstock at [annec@americanhumane.org](mailto:annec@americanhumane.org) or John Fluke at [johnf@americanhumane.org](mailto:johnf@americanhumane.org).

### **Procedures for Submitting an Abstract**

American Humane encourages researchers, evaluators, academics, public child welfare administrators, supervisors, front-line workers, tribes, service providers in community-based agencies, and policymakers to submit an abstract for consideration. Each abstract should:

- Describe the proposed article in approximately 500 words, following APA style.
- Illustrate the uniqueness of the proposed article and how it contributes to the literature.
- Identify the primary and secondary authors in the header.
- Include contact information for the author(s).
- Provide a list of proposed references for the article (not included in the word limit).

American Humane accepts abstracts for articles that are original and have not been published previously. Articles in *Protecting Children* typically range from 2,000 to 5,000 words.

For consideration, email abstracts to Ingrid Porter at [ingridp@americanhumane.org](mailto:ingridp@americanhumane.org) by **August 7, 2009**.

All abstracts will be blind-reviewed by a guest editor and content reviewers. Authors will be notified of the outcome of their abstract submissions in early September. If accepted, **full papers will be due January 8, 2010**.