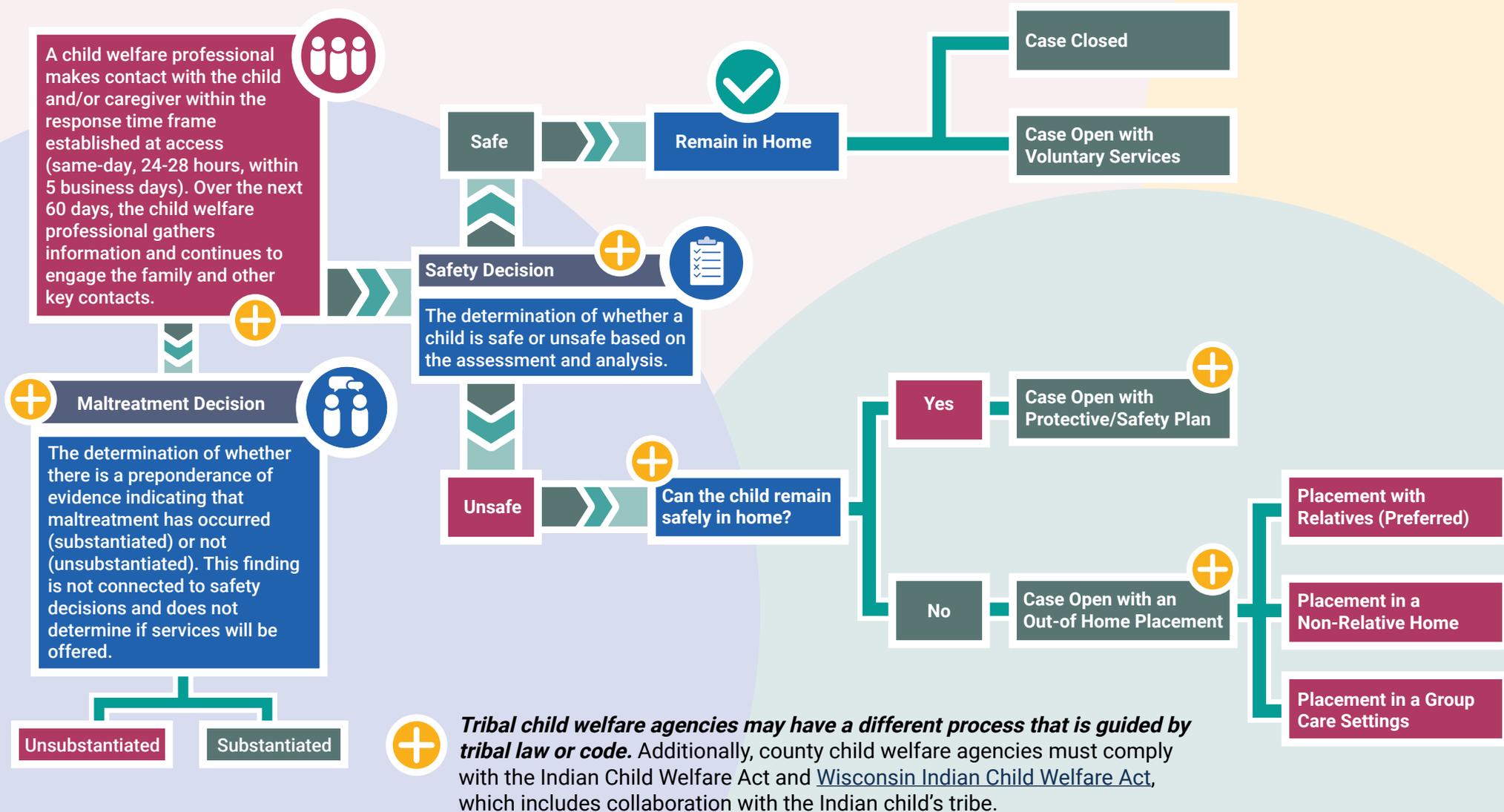


Wisconsin's Child Welfare Process Explained: Initial Assessment

Wisconsin's child welfare system is divided into three stages - access, initial assessment, and ongoing. Initial assessment is the stage of the process and where local and tribal child welfare agencies perform interviews with the child(ren), parent(s), Indian custodian, and others adults who are in contact with the child, such as doctors and educators, and visit the home. Using this information, they determine child safety, whether additional services may be needed, and if maltreatment occurred. The below infographic showcases how a case moves through this stage of the system; however, it is important to note that **evaluating and assessing child safety is continuous throughout the life of the case.**



The Department of Children and Families is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. If you have a disability and need to access services, receive information in an alternate format, or need information translated to another language, please call the Division of Safety and Permanence at (608)266-8787. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind or speech disabled can use the free Wisconsin Relay Service (WRS) – 711 to contact the department.