

Determining a Sentinel Event

Service (Actively Receiving) or Living Situation	Suicide	Non-Suicide Death	Emergency Medical Treatment (EMT) due to Injury or Medication Error	Hospitalization due to Injury or Medication Error	Arrest of Consumer
Emergency Service within the last 30 calendar days	X				
24-hour Specialized Residential Setting / Child-Caring Institution / Substance Abuse Residential Treatment Program	X	X	X	X	X
Community Living Supports	X	X			
Supports Coordination / Targeted Case Management	X	X			
ACT	X	X			
Home-Based	X	X			
Wraparound	X	X			
Habilitation Supports Waiver	X	X	X	X	X
SED Waiver	X	X	X	X	X
Child Waiver	X	X	X	X	X
Any Other Service	X				
The event is a “critical incident” if the indicated services have been provided, or if the consumer resides in any of the living situations. Only one checked situation is necessary for the incident to be a reportable “critical incident.”					

Step 1: Is Event a “Critical Incident?” (See above chart)

If no, Stop.

If yes, go to Step 2.

Step 2: Was the incident an unexpected occurrence (not from natural causes)?

If no, Stop.

If yes, go to Step 3.

Step 3: Did the incident result in death or serious physical or psychological injury? (Serious injury is major permanent loss of limb or function as determined by a physician or registered nurse; psychological injury is impaired psychological functioning, growth, or development of a significant nature as evidenced by observable physical symptomatology, as determined by a mental health professional.)

If no, go to Step 4.

If yes, CLASSIFY AS SENTINEL EVENT

Step 4: Was there risk of loss? (If the event had continued, loss, i.e., death or serious physical or psychological injury, would have occurred as determined by a physician or registered nurse.)

If no, Stop.

If yes, CLASSIFY AS SENTINEL EVENT AND PERFORM ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS