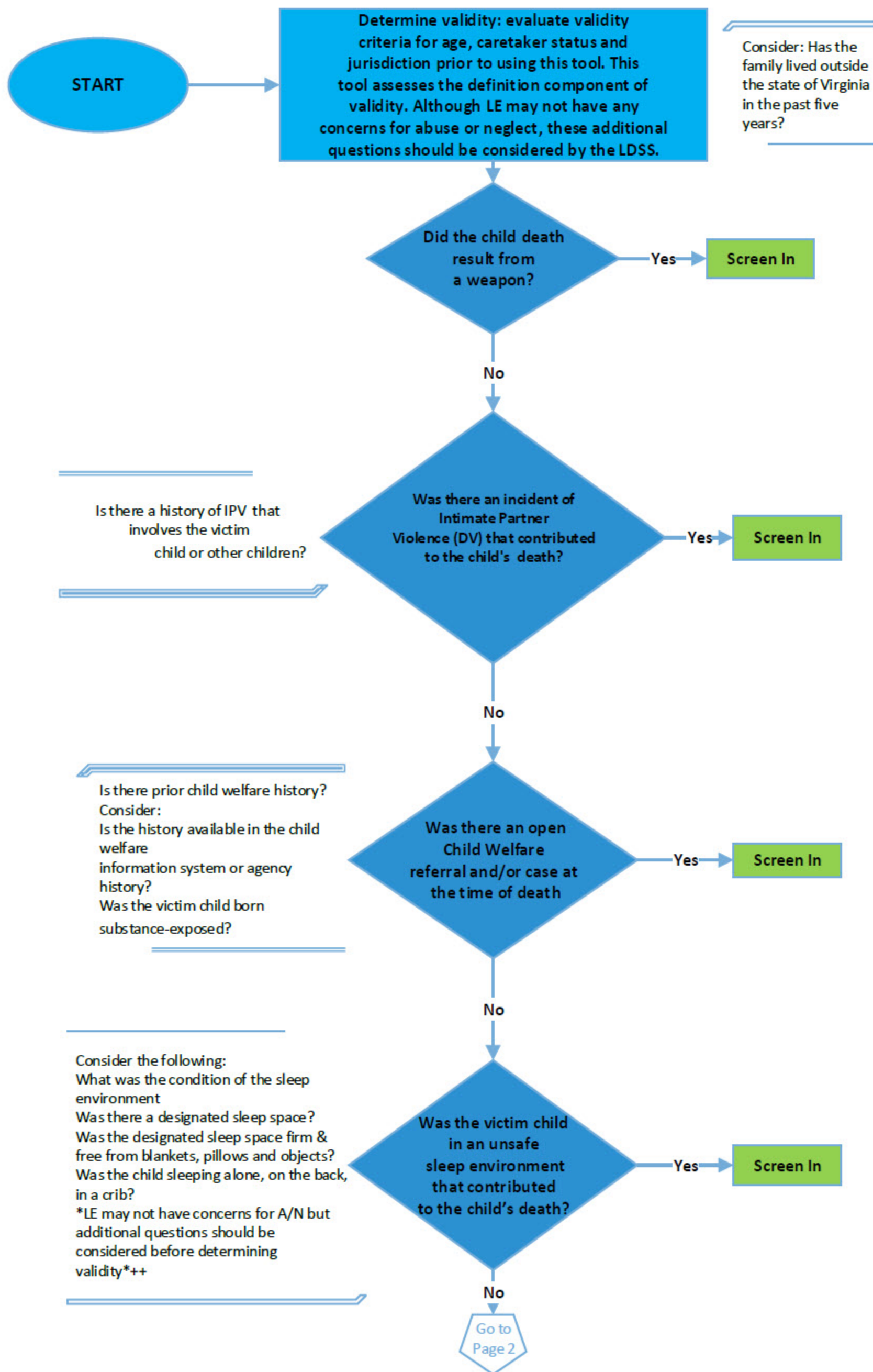


## Child Fatality Decision Tree Tool

A valid child death referral does not mean it will result in a founded child death investigation.



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIAL SERVICES



Division of  
Family Services

## Child Fatality Decision Tree Tool

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Consider:  
Does the caretaker/AA have a history of substance use?  
Is the caretaker/AA currently receiving treatment?  
\*Strongly consider drug testing if the death is validated\*

At time of death were there concerns that the caretaker/alleged abuser was impaired or suspected to be impaired (includes sleep; alcohol; substances and medications)?  
And/ or was the victim child born substance-exposed?

Yes

Screen In

No

Does the caretaker/alleged abuser have a physical, cognitive, developmental, emotional impairment and is there concern it contributed to the child's death?

Yes

Screen In

No

Consider:  
Did the victim child have a physical, cognitive, developmental, emotional impairment and is there concern it contributed to their death?  
Was the victim child receiving treatment?

Did the victim child have medical conditions requiring treatment and it is believed that the lack of necessary treatment or services contributed to the child's death?

Yes

Screen In

No

Consider:  
What was the MH diagnosis and was the child receiving treatment?  
Was the caretaker aware of the MH issues?  
Were there past attempts or suicidal ideation?  
Prior hospitalizations?  
Are there any substances (legal or illegal in the home) and are they secured?  
Were there any weapons in the home and were they secured/unsecured?

Is there suspicion that the child committed suicide and are there concerns for medical/mental neglect by the caretaker?

Yes

Screen In

No

Refer Screened Out reports to prevention response  
and/or community partners where appropriate.