

Martin Family Scenario

Read the following scenario to yourself. Once you have finished, you will participate in a role-play in which you will consider how to identify the “concerns under the concerns.” During the role-play, one participant in the group will act as the facilitator, one as an observer and the rest in the group as family members. This will require that those acting as the family members add to the scenario while staying within its confines.

The facilitator is to ask the “family members” to share concerns, with the purpose of helping the “family members” drill down to the true “concerns under the concerns.” You will have 5 minutes to conduct the role-play and 2 minutes to provide feedback. After time is up, you will switch roles. You will change roles and repeat this activity until everyone has a chance to facilitate.

Family Composition:

Unknown	Biological Father	23 years of age
Stacy	Biological Mother	22 years of age
Brilynn	Child	6 months of age
Allison	Child	18 months of age
Vera	Maternal Grandmother	56 years of age

You are facilitating a Family Group Decision Making meeting for a family in which two children, ages 6 months of age and 18 months of age, were removed from the home due to safety concerns. Stacy, the mother, suffers from Post-Partum Depression. When the children were residing with her, she reportedly got “the shakes” when the children cried, and she stated at one time she was afraid she might hurt the children. Additionally, the children were being left unsupervised upstairs with no gates on the stairs and Allison has been seen carrying kitchen utensils while running through the house. Neither the caseworker nor the FGDM coordinator has been able to identify a father. Stacy states that the children have different fathers, but is unwilling to provide the names of either of them. No one in the family is willing to offer any additional information regarding the fathers of the children.

Prior to the meeting, the caseworker indicated that they feel Stacy needs to be supervised with the children, however Stacy is very adamant that this is not necessary, and states, “I was sick and got treatment.” She also asks, “How can I prove myself and show I can do it, if I am always supported and supervised?”

The family argues that she should be given a chance. There has been a strong outpouring of support by the family members, and they have agreed to support the family in any way, so that they can get their children back. Stacy wants to invite as many people as possible to help her get her children back. The children’s grandmother supports Stacy and wants to help her identify resources, neighbors, friends, family, *etc.*

The parenting instructor shares the progress that Stacy has made and supports the children returning to her care. Prior to the meeting, the private provider who supervises visits between Stacy and the children shared concerns regarding whether Stacy is capable of parenting the children full-time.