

## Case Examples

### Instructions:

While working at your tables, do the following individually:

- read your assigned case example;
- reflect on the content of the *Preparation* handout as well as any previous training resources you believe might help (e.g., the *Stages of Change: Questions to Ask and Actions to Consider* and the *Six Assessment Domains* handouts).

After reading the scenario, working as a small group:

- identify a recorder and reporter
- answer the questions at the end of your assigned scenario
- after coming to consensus, the recorder will place your answers on a piece of flip chart paper

After your discussions end, the trainer will ask your reporter to offer your discussion points to the large group.

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### 1) Jones Family:

On January 3<sup>rd</sup> of this year, Children and Youth Services (CYS) received an anonymous referral, which alleged that Malika Jones, mother of three preschoolers, was using corporal punishment to discipline her unruly children. The anonymous caller alleged that she hears the children screaming and crying “all day long” and has observed the mother hitting the children on the buttocks with her hand. This was CYS’s first referral on the Jones family.

When the intake caseworker arrived at 1:30 p.m. on January 5<sup>th</sup>, the children, ages 1 ½, 2 ½, and 4 were jumping on the furniture and screaming. They were dressed only in t-shirts and diapers/underwear. The mother was sitting at the kitchen table drinking coffee. The intake worker asked and received the mother’s permission to see the children’s bodies to check for injuries. There were no injuries on any of the children and they appeared to be healthy, although clearly out of control behaviorally.

The intake worker met with the mother who explained that she had been a heroin addict but had been clean for two years. She had overdosed three years ago and was, according to her, “scared straight.” Malika told the intake worker that she was HIV positive but did not yet have full-blown AIDS. The mother admitted to having very little control of the children’s behavior and feeling a bit hopeless at times.

After the intake was completed, the caseworker told the mother about a parenting class at the church just down the block from her. The 12-week class provides babysitting services and is designed to help mothers with young children learn peaceful parenting techniques, how to schedule their day as well as how to plan healthy nutritious meals. The case was transferred for ongoing, in-home services.

## Case Examples (cont'd)

Malika, as she told you she prefers to be called, is very interested in attending the parenting classes and asked you, the ongoing worker, to make the referral for her.

1. What are the tasks that you would perform and the considerations you would make in preparing for the interview?
  2. What do you still need to know? Offer specific questions (that incorporate the Stages of Change, the Six Assessment Domains, and/or strengths-based, solution-focused concepts) that you would ask the family when conducting the actual interview.
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### 2) Simpka Family:

Mark Simpka is a 15-year-old 8<sup>th</sup> grader at the Valley Middle School. Mark was placed at the county youth shelter, after his parents had called CYS and requested that he be put in an out-of-home placement. According to his parents, Mark has consistently refused to go to school and they were being fined weekly. He frequently stays out at night with his friends until after midnight and comes home smelling of alcohol.

Mark is becoming increasingly violent, has broken objects in the home, constantly fights and threatens violence toward his 10-year-old sister, and has recently hit his mother with a portable phone. When the caseworker met with Mark's parents, she found out that Mark had been adopted when he was five years old. He had been severely physically abused by both of his birth parents and had some minor brain damage from being shaken by his birth father. According to the adoption agency records, Mark's birth mother was an alcoholic.

You have just come from court, where it was ordered that Mark undergo a mental health evaluation. You are the permanency worker.

1. What are the tasks that you would perform and the considerations you would make in preparing for the interview?
  2. What do you still need to know? Offer specific questions that you would ask the family when conducting the actual interview.
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### 3) Olum Family:

A call was received from an elementary school nurse, expressing concern that nine-year-old Billy Olum frequently comes to school with various injuries. She states the boy and his father, Walter Olum, recently moved to the area. Billy plays Peewee football but does not appear to have many friends, either on the team or in school. The child is unkempt and wears worn-out clothing. The nurse does not believe Billy is being abused but is concerned about the quality of care and supervision the child is receiving.

## Case Examples (cont'd)

The screener, Sarah Plume, contacted Walter Olum by phone. He states he is a single father who works two jobs to make ends meet, especially since his fuel bills have been so high. He knows that his son has to look after himself a lot but has no friends or family in the area to help. Walter was unaware that the injuries and clothing would cause concern as he grew up in an area where children played outside all the time and where it did not matter what their clothing looked like. The screener learned that the Olum family is Native American and has ties to the Delaware tribe. The father states he does feel somewhat lost about how to raise Billy on his own and is asking for assistance.

You are the assigned intake worker.

1. What are the tasks that you would perform and the considerations you would make in preparing for the interview?
  2. Offer specific questions (that incorporate the Stages of Change, the Six Assessment Domains, and/or strengths-based, solution-focused concepts) that you would ask the family when conducting the actual interview.
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### 4) Juarez Family:

The CYS on-call worker, Juan Zocolo, was called by the local police to the Juarez residence at 3:30 a.m. When the on-call worker arrived at the residence, Juanita was clearly intoxicated and the home was in total disarray with the children crying and huddled in a back bedroom. Juanita was explaining to the police that she had a date that evening and, when she brought the man home to spend the night, she had awakened at 2:00 a.m. to find the man in her 5-year-old daughter's bed. She had gone on a rampage, throwing breakable objects at the man and demanding that he leave her home. She hit the man in the head with an ashtray and he was en route to the hospital. Juanita was arrested for assault and taken to jail for the night. The children were temporarily placed with Freda Juarez, the maternal grandmother.

You are the receiving intake caseworker the following workday.

1. What are the tasks that you would perform and the considerations you would make in preparing for the interview?
2. Offer specific questions (that incorporate the Stages of Change, the Six Assessment Domains, and/or strengths-based, solution-focused concepts) that you would ask the family when conducting the actual interview.