

The Vincent Family Scenario

Instructions: Read the following case example and circle or underline any present danger threats.

Children and Youth Services (CYS) receives a report from a pediatrician on Phil and Clara Vincent who have an 18-month-old daughter, Sheila. The Vincents have taken their daughter to their pediatrician because she isn't eating, seems to have a fever, and is listless. The pediatrician reports the family to CYS after discovering a broken arm (an apparent spiral fracture) and x-rays showing two previous breaks (months old). The pediatrician has advised the Vincents that CYS has been called. They are agreeable, a bit intimidated, but seem very concerned about the injuries to Sheila. The child's break is set and her medical needs are attended to. The couple goes home with the child.

The CYS worker goes to the family home that same afternoon and begins the initial assessment. The parents appear to be concerned about their child. They do not understand what has happened to the child and cannot explain the current injury or previous injuries. They say they take very good care of their child and love her very much. The father is currently unemployed and is Sheila's primary caretaker. The mom works at K-Mart. The home is adequate and clean. The couple acts in a supportive manner toward each other. They appear open to CYS and are cooperative.

The CYS worker expresses concern about the unexplained injury and informs the parents that it would be best if some immediate safety plan could be set up while she conducts her investigation/assessment. They agree and suggest that Clara's mother (maternal grandmother) will be glad to do so at her home during the next few days. The maternal grandmother was not caring for Sheila when injuries have occurred. They all agree that this is a good temporary plan. Parents will take her there now. As the worker leaves, the parents put Sheila in her car seat to head to grandmother's house.