

## Case Examples

### 1) Jones Family:

On January 3<sup>rd</sup> of this year, 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 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 caseworker 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 caseworker then 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 CYS 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. The mother stated she knows the basics of infant care, but now that her children are older, she doesn’t feel like she knows how to get the toddlers to do what she wants without hitting them.

After the interview was completed, the caseworker told the mother about a parenting class at the church just down the block from her. The 12-week class provided babysitting services and was 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.

After the 12 formal classes are completed, participants graduate to an ongoing support group, which meets weekly. Malika was very interested in attending the parenting classes and asked the caseworker to make the referral for her. What information can the caseworker share with the staff of the parenting program?

## **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.

The court has ordered that Mark undergo a mental health evaluation. What information can the caseworker share with the staff of the Mental Health program?

## **3) Juarez Family:**

The case record reflects that the local police had referred the Juarez family to CYS last spring when Juanita Juarez had left her five children home alone all night. At the time, the children's ages ranged from 5 months to 11 years old. Juanita explained that she was at a party and had too much to drink and had fallen asleep. When she awoke at 7:00 a.m., she went home to find that CYS had been called by the police and had placed the children with their grandmother, Freda Juarez.

After the requisite juvenile court hearing, the children were returned to Juanita with CYS providing in-home protective services. Throughout the next several months, Juanita Juarez and her caseworker, Laurie Goodall, developed a good working relationship. Juanita shared with Laurie that she had grown up very poor and her mother was an alcoholic (now in recovery for five years) who had brought a parade of men in and out of the family's home. Juanita recalled that she had been sexually abused by several of the men. When she was 17, a classmate had raped Juanita at a party and, in fact, her oldest child was a product of that rape.

Several months later 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, 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 five-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 again temporarily placed with Freda Juarez and, among other things, Juanita was court ordered to get a drug and alcohol evaluation at the county D&A program. What information can the caseworker share with the staff of the D&A program?

#### **4) 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.

The intake worker, Sarah Plume, contacts 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 intake worker made use of the ICWA Screening and learned that the Olum family had ties to the Delaware tribe. She looked up resources on the NICWA (National Indian Child Welfare Association) site and found a local office nearby, which offers afterschool programming. What information can the caseworker share with the afterschool program?