

The Hawes Family & Darlene's Mother Case Scenario

The Hawes Family

The County Children and Youth Agency (CCYA) received a report from a pediatrician on an 18-month-old child, Jessica, who is the daughter of Chris and Darlene Hawes, ages 32 and 30 respectively. The Hawes family took their daughter to the emergency room at 4:00 pm today where they told their pediatrician that Jessica is not eating, seems to have a fever, and is listless. Upon discovering a spiral fracture of the arm and two older previous healed breaks on x-ray, the pediatrician reports the family to the CCYA. The pediatrician has advised the Hawes family that the CCYA has been called. The pediatrician reports that the parents said they had no idea how these injuries occurred but that they are agreeable and a bit intimidated about the CCYA, but seem very concerned about the injuries to Jessica. The child's fracture is set and her medical needs are attended to. The couple goes home with the child.

The CCYA worker goes to the family home that same afternoon and begins the initial assessment. The parents are cooperative, concerned about their child and seem to be open. 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. Currently, the father is Jessica's primary caretaker. The mom works at Dunkin Donuts from 4:00 am to 12:00 noon. The home is adequate and clean. The couple is supportive of each other. They appear open to the CCYA and are cooperative.

The worker expresses concern about the unexplained serious injury and informs the parents that it would be best if an Immediate Preliminary Safety Plan could be set up while she completes her investigation. Both parents agree to this idea and suggest that Darlene's mother, who is close to Jessica, will be glad to keep Jessica at her house. They all agree that this is a good plan.

Darlene's Mom

A call is made to Darlene's mother, Jayne Miller. Mrs. Miller, a widow, agrees to have Jessica placed at her house. The Hawes family and the worker proceed immediately to Jayne Miller's house with Jessica. After the placement is completed, the Hawes family leaves.

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Following are responses from Jayne Miller and other observations:

- “Chris is such a wonderful guy. Darlene and him make such a nice couple and are excellent parents.”
- “Oh, I can’t see how this could be anything but an accident. Surely you don’t mean to suggest that Chris or Darlene may be responsible for the injuries.”
- “I will be here day in and day out. Little Jessica will be well cared for, I assure you. I am as concerned as you are.”
- “I feel so sorry for Chris and Darlene what with this turning into a big deal with the doctors and you at child welfare.”
- “It seems perfectly reasonable that Chris and Darlene have a right to be very upset with what’s happening to them.”
- “I will do what you say, but I don’t see any good reason for not allowing them to see their own child, who they love, I might say, by themselves.”
- “I am not going to be able to get Jessica back and forth for medical care for her injuries. Do you think she is going to need all that much? Is there some reason why Chris can’t take care of this?”
- “We are a close family. I depend on them for lots of things and they are so willing to help me out. I am glad I can help them out now.”
- “You need not worry or bother coming by all that much. I will be here and you can count on me. Just call if you need to know anything.”
- “No one else lives here with me. I rarely associate with others. I remain alone here most of the time.”
- “For 68, I am in pretty good health. Occasionally my hips bother me, and it makes it difficult to get around. And recently, my hearing has not been very good. But all said and done, I am okay now.” The CCYA worker observed Ms. Miller physically moving around and did not have to repeat any questions.
- “Well, I look forward to when this is all sorted out and Jessica is back home with her parents.”