

Scenario for Participants: Round Robin Exercise

Information Collection

My sister, Annie, is a young, single parent of a 3-year-old son named Anthony. She is currently residing in a rent-by-the-week motel (the conditions of the motel are run down and foster a criminal element). Annie is not steadily employed but works a few days a week at day labor. When she was at work, Anthony stayed with a woman in the room next door. Child Protective Services (CPS) has determined that Annie knows very little about the neighbor except that “she seems really nice.” There have been occasions when Annie leaves Anthony alone in the motel room while she “runs to the store for some milk.” Annie has an expectation that Anthony can watch after himself for short periods of time. The police concluded that Anthony was not safe with Annie and the police released him to me. They said CPS would be in touch. At the time, a worker came out and did a quick walk through of the house, talked with my spouse and me for a while. The worker then asked if we would keep Anthony for a while to keep him safe and avoid having the agency ask the court for custody of him. We said yes and the worker made an appointment to come see us two weeks later. The worker told us to call if we needed anything in the meantime and has checked in by phone once since then.

It is now two weeks later and the worker is knocking on my door. I know she wanted my spouse to be here, but oh well...Anthony is here, running around like crazy, as usual.