

The Hummel Family Case Scenario (Part I):

The Hummel Family consists of: April (mother), age 32; Bobby (son), age 7; Cathy (daughter), age 6; David (son), age 4; Earl (mother's paramour), age 24

Note: Frank Hummel (father) left the neighborhood about two years ago after he and April were divorced.

The referral source, Grace (Gary), has lived next door to the Hummel's since the Hummels moved into the neighborhood about eight years ago. The Karing's have a son the same age as Bobby. Grace/Gary just learned from her/his son that Bobby was not going to school today because he has a black eye, the result of being hit by Earl last night. April and Earl were fighting (arguing) and Earl began hitting April. Bobby stepped in to protect his mother and Earl hit him also. According to Grace/Gary, her/his son spoke with Bobby and he saw the injury when he went to Bobby's house so the two of them could walk to school together, as they usually do. He was very upset that his friend was hurt, so he returned home to tell his mother/father.

- According to the son, Bobby's eye is swollen and is a purple-bluish color.
- Bobby attends 2nd grade at Rush Elementary.
- Cathy attends the 1st grade at Rush Elementary.
- David is not in school yet.
- The Karing's used to socialize quite a bit with the Hummel's prior to the divorce but have since decreased their interactions, especially since Earl moved in about six months ago.
- After the divorce April has become more isolated (less interaction) from the neighbors. April has a fulltime job and works all day Monday through Friday. Previously, she did not drink much but now drinks often since Earl moved in.
- Earl doesn't seem to work because he is always home, he takes care of the children when their mother is at work. Earl is always drinking beer, getting drunk and fighting with April. "Every time I see him he has a beer in his hand and I often hear him and April yelling and screaming. I have even heard things banging and breaking". The Karing's have seen the police at the house a couple of times.
- Grace/Gary's son and Bobby play together all the time. They used to stay over night at each other's homes but now, while Bobby does stay over at the Karing's on occasion, they won't let their son stay over at Bobby's. Bobby does not like Earl. He always talks about Earl's drinking and beating his mom. He doesn't seem to be as happy as he used to be and he says he is worried his mom will get hurt. He wants Earl to leave.
- The neighborhood is a nice quiet area of middle class homes. The Hummel's home was always nice, neat and clean but recently the outside has not been taken care of. The lawn is not mowed and the back yard is littered with trash and toys. The Karing's have not been in the Hummel's house in over a year, but it was well kept.
- The Karing's don't know much about Cathy or David anymore. They only see them occasionally if they are outside playing. When the Karing's ask Bobby about them, Bobby just says "They are OK, Earl doesn't hit them. I would kill him if he did; I keep a bat in my room you know".