

MARY'S STORY: PART I

Mary Raymond is a 9-year-old learning support 4th grader at the MLK Elementary School in Harrisburg. Mary is the only child of Grace Raymond. On January 6, 2005, after a lecture on sexual abuse prevention presented by a local rape crisis center, Mary told her teacher, Mrs. Cutler, that her mother's boyfriend had been touching her in places that made her feel "yucky." As a mandated reporter under the Child Protective Services Law, Mrs. Cutler followed her school protocol and notified the principal of Mary's disclosure. The principal called Childline and reported the case. The case was investigated by Dauphin County Children and Youth Services.

Mary's teacher told the investigator that Mary had been unusually quiet lately and seems to be sad. Mary had complained several times to her teacher about abdominal pain and gastrointestinal problems.

Mary's mother, Grace, age 25, works full time at a local grocery store and is a member of the choir at her church. She donated her time once a month at the local food bank and was, by all accounts, involved in her community. Grace has been estranged from her mother for about 2 years as the grandmother, Lillian Raymond, did not like Grace's boyfriend, Willis DeShaun. Ms. Raymond has had no contact with Grace or Mary though this time.

Willis DeShaun, age 23, dropped out of high school and was working part-time, "under the table", for a contractor. Willis has a history of alcohol related criminal activity including underage drinking, 2 DUI's and public intoxication citations.

During the course of the investigation, Grace denied the sexual abuse and supported her boyfriend, Willis. Grace believed that Willis was a righteous, God-fearing man who would never molest a child. She told the investigator that Mary had never liked Willis and resented the fact that she took up with Willis. She also told the investigator that when Willis is around, Mary often "prances" around seductively in only her underwear and is sometimes touching herself. In addition, Grace reports that Mary lies all the time.

The investigator completed a safety and risk assessment and determined that Mary was at high risk of re-abuse if she remained in the same home with Willis. Therefore, the investigator petitioned the court for and was granted an emergency court order to remove Mary from the home until her safety could be assured. Mary was placed in a foster home as no suitable relative or other responsible adult could be found to provide care. During the investigation, Grace married Willis and they moved to another apartment in Dauphin County. After hearing testimony, Mary was adjudicated dependent and the case was determined by the Dauphin County Juvenile Court to be a founded case of abuse.

MARY'S STORY: PART 1 (CONT'D.)

1. What are Grace's strengths?
2. What are Grace's immediate needs?
3. List some goals and objectives for Grace.
4. What are Mary's strengths?
5. What are Mary's immediate needs?
6. List some goals and objectives for Mary.
7. What are Willis' strengths?
8. What are Willis' immediate needs?
9. List some goals and objective for Willis.
10. What would be the placement goal for Mary at this time and why?
11. What are some immediate next steps for the child welfare professionals?