

What Type of Referral Am I?

Directions: Discuss each of the following cases. Determine whether you would accept the case for investigation. If so, decide what type of referral it is and why.

1. Lorie has six children, ages 16, 14, 13, 11, and a set of twins who are four years old. Lorie and the children live in a home with broken windows and that is often without heat. The younger children are always begging for food and the older children are hardly ever around. The older children all have truancy issues. It is rumored that the 13-year-old is drinking and smoking.
2. A neighbor refers a man, woman, and their six-year-old son. The neighbor fears that the young boy is not properly cared for: the man and woman yell loudly all the time and the boy appears unhappy and unclean. She doesn't think that he gets to school regularly, and he appears to be out of control and gets on his parents' nerves. The neighbor relates an incident when the son was three years old. The father grabbed the boy and hung him out a window of their third story apartment. He threatened to drop the boy if he did not behave. The boy was heavy and the father nearly lost his grip on the child when the mother brought the son back into the apartment.
3. Lisa is the 26-year-old mother of Nancy, age three. A neighbor reports to you that Nancy was left home alone overnight when Lisa went out to search for drugs and that Lisa appeared to be frequently "high."
4. A counselor learns that a child in his program has been spending time alone with a known molester. The parents have been asking the molester to babysit on Friday nights since they cannot find another sitter and they both hold a second job that night. The counselor believes that the parents know that the man has molested other children and has not received treatment. The counselor does not have any reason to believe that the child in his school has been molested. As a matter of fact, the child always talks about all of the fun things he does with Uncle Bob while mom and dad are at work.
5. A child care provider accompanies a mother and her two-year-old son to the local hospital at the mother's request. The mother claimed the child had fallen off his tricycle and bruised himself. The hospital took x-rays and the doctor noted bruises in various stages of healing. The x-rays confirmed a spiral fracture on the boy's right leg. The mother became very angry and denied any abuse. The provider never met the boy's father.