

Dependency

Directions: work with your small group to determine which part of the definition of dependent child applies to each of the case scenarios.

1. Dave is four years old. His mother repeatedly beat him with an extension cord. The last time he was beaten, he ran out of the house and into the street. His mother, in a drunken stupor, chased after him with the extension cord in her hands.
2. Thirteen-year-old Dick lives with his parents who work the night shift and sleep in the morning upon returning from work. The parents have been unavailable for calls and visits from the school and child welfare agency. Dick has missed 29 days of school and been late for school on 15 days this school year.
3. Dolores, a mother in her thirties, has given birth to three children. She has used cocaine since her husband left her five years ago. Her first child was born six years ago. After Dolores' husband left, the child welfare agency placed the child in foster care and eventually involuntarily terminated the parents' rights to the child. Dolores' second child was born four years ago. Dolores lost custody of this child when he was age two, and again her rights were involuntarily terminated to this child. Dolores now has a newborn. What little money she has is used to buy cocaine. Instead of paying rent, she stays for a few weeks at a time with various friends. Dolores hasn't determined how she will buy food and clothing for the newborn.
4. Danielle is 15 years old. She takes off a lot and either stays with friends or parties through the night. Her parents know little of her whereabouts most of the time. The parents unsuccessfully attempted to establish a curfew for Danielle. Her response was to hitchhike to the New Jersey coast for a few days.
5. Don is a truck driver and Dee likes to accompany him on his cross-country trips. Dee usually finds someone to care for her three, five and nine-year-old children while she's gone. This time, though, she couldn't find a sitter and Don was really pressuring her to go. Dee figured that the nine-year-old could handle the household for the week that she would be gone.
6. Donna, age 14, has been sexually abused by her 20-year-old brother who lives in the same home. Donna's parents feel that she is making up the story since they recently refused to allow Donna's boyfriend to live in their home any longer.