

207: Introduction to Family Group Decision Making (FGDM):

Part 2

Appendix C

Case Scenario #3

You are working on a case where two children (1 year and 3 years) were removed from the home due to safety concerns. It was reported that the mother would get “the shakes” when the children cried and she stated at one time she was afraid she might hurt the children. Also, the children were being left unsupervised upstairs with no gates on the stairs and were seen carrying kitchen utensils as they were running through the house. It was later clarified that the mother had been suffering from Post-Partum Depression. The caseworker still feels the mother has to be supervised with the children, but mother refuses, stating “I was sick and got treatment”. She also states “How can I prove myself and show I can do it, if I am always supported and supervised”. The family strongly argues she should be given a chance. There has been a strong outpouring of support by the family members and they have agreed to support the family in any way so that they can get their children back.

Section IV: Step 5 – Widening the Circle

- Roles:
 - Mom: Wants to invite as many people as possible to help her get her children back.
 - Grandmother: Supports mom and wants to help her identify resources, neighbors, friends, family, etc.

Section VII: Step 3 – The Delicate Balance of Coordinating

- Roles:
 - Caseworker contacts the coordinator and indicates that a new referral has come in on mom for inappropriate discipline.
 - Mom tries to convince you that the recent referral for inappropriate discipline is not true.
 - Grandmother informs you, on the side, that she occasionally allows the mom to watch the children for short periods of time when she is not there.

Section VIII: Step 5 – Pre-Conference

- Roles:
 - Parenting Instructor: Shares the progress that mom has made and supports the idea of the children returning to her care
 - Collaborative Visitation Services: Still questioning whether mom is capable of parenting the children full time.

Section IX: Step 10 – Concern under the Concern

- Roles:
 - Mother wants her chance
 - Family member shares they are nervous about the kids coming home