

Family Scenario

The family is a Caucasian family of five. The father (Neil), age 51, has a history with drug and alcohol issues and anger management, particularly while drinking. He left the family home seven months ago at the request of mom. Neil has been sober for six months now and has been attending AA meetings with a long time military friend (who still drinks). The Mother (Patricia) has a history with abusive men and was emotionally abused by her own father. The situation in her home growing up was not very pleasant, yet the authorities and children services were never involved in her life before her own kids. Six years ago, Child Protective Services got involved with her family stemming from her leaving 13 month old Jacob sleeping in her car while she was shopping at the grocery store. The case was closed after 8 months of involvement. Jacob is now 7. Jacob was diagnosed with ADHD and has been on Ritalin for 6 months. His behavior had been improving until the recent marital issues with his parents. The family was recently referred to the truancy unit at Children Services because Cody (14 years old) has not been attending school and was recently suspended for physical aggression towards a faculty member at school.

Cody has been referred to Juvenile Probation. Crystal (16 years old) is also showing some problems academically and her mother reports that she “has an attitude”. Crystal is very upset with her mother for “kicking my dad out”. Crystal has not been following curfew and has been hanging out with a lot of older guys from her school. Jacob has reported to the caseworker that Crystal has been drinking at dad’s house and sleeping over her at her boyfriends.