

## Velasquez Family Case Study

Mother: Christine Velasquez, age 36  
Father: Gene Velasquez, age 39  
Paternal Grandmother: Gina Velasquez,  
age 69

Child: Katie Velasquez, age 7 months  
Child: Palo Velasquez, age 3  
Child: Patti Velasquez, age 5

The Velasquez family became involved with Children and Youth when the oldest child, Patti, began missing a lot of school. This prompted the home school visitor to visit the Velasquez home. At that time, she found the other children unsupervised. She was able to reach Gene at work to address her immediate concerns. A subsequent referral was then made.

The caseworker conducting the initial contact gathered the following information:

Following the birth of her 7 month old daughter, Christine began experiencing symptoms of depression. Christine did not have any previous difficulty following the birth of the older 2 children. There is a great deal of concern about the care of the children as Christine's symptoms do not seem to be improving. Christine continues to sleep throughout the day and has a "complete lack of regard for the children". She does not feed or supervise the children and expresses that she does not wish to do so. She is not eating and frequently does not make sense when she is speaking. Additionally she frequently expresses suicidal ideations.

Gene has taken family medical leave from work to stay home and care for the children; however his family medical leave is now exhausted. The paternal grandmother has been staying with Christine and the children during the day; however, she has personal obligations that require her to leave on occasion. When this occurs, Gene has been coming home to care for the kids. Gene's job is now in jeopardy because he has been leaving work frequently and the family does not know what to do. The family is also at risk of losing their home due to the reduction in income over the past 7 months. They are able to resolve this problem however, but Gene must continue to work.

The family does have close ties to their church and 2 church members have offered themselves as resources to the family. Gene's mother is willing to continue caring for the children during the day, but also needs to be able to attend her own personal obligations.

Based on what you know, respond to the following questions:

What are the current risk concerns in this family?

Are there any existing safety threats?

Are there any existing protective capacities?

Are there any resources available to the family? What are they?

What safety decision would you make? Safe, Safe with a Comprehensive Safety Plan, Unsafe. Why?

Based on your safety decision, develop a safety plan.

What services would you explore with the Velasquez family to include on their Family Service Plan?