

## FIVE FAMILIES

- ❖ The **Adams** family consists of a 33-year-old mother, 35-year-old father, a 12-year-old son, and a 10-year-old daughter. They live in an isolated area with several extended family members. The son misses a lot of school and appears very temperamental. The school referred the family to child welfare with concerns about the son's emotional health. The caseworker's first visit to the home did not go well. It was difficult to keep everyone in the room at the same time, and they denied any need for help. The parents showed an indifference to their son. He appeared very unresponsive and apathetic. The parents did not seem to place a high priority on school, noting that they were not honor roll students, but they have done well. Yet, the family does not seem to have any steady source of income.
  
- ❖ The **Butler** household consists of an 18-year-old mother and her 9-month-old child. They live in a housing project with subsidized rent. The child's father had been involved with the family until recently. Child welfare was called to intervene when the child was taken to the emergency room with a suspicious fracture. The mother states that the child fell out of his crib. The mother meets willingly with the caseworker and discussions seem to go well until the child cries. The mother then becomes angry and wonders why the child is doing this to her and why he does not love her.
  
- ❖ The **Clinton** family consists of the father and step-mother, both age 43, and a 16-year-old daughter. The caseworker was quite impressed with the family's big home in the upscale section of the city. According to the step-mother, the father is quite successful in business despite his humble beginnings, and is popular with his colleagues and friends. His success has continued despite the death of his wife five years ago, and the rumors of downsizing at his company. The father and daughter have been very close since the mother's death, and he has given his daughter everything. Yet, the daughter does not go out much and spends a lot of time alone in her room. She won't wear her nice clothes and seems to wear layers of old clothes. Despite good grades, she seems to have a lot of anxiety over attending school and other activities. The father is never around during the worker's visits. The school counselor referred the family because she suspects a sexual relationship between the father and daughter.

- ❖ The **Delaware** family consists of a 28-year-old mother, her 19-year-old boyfriend, and five children ranging in age from 2 to 13. The oldest child is sometimes in charge while the mother goes out with the boyfriend. The house is dirty and in disarray. The school complains about the children's clothing and states that they have an odor. The children have not attended for a while due to a persistent lice problem. The police have been called to the home on various occasions for fighting and loud parties. Their last visit was in February when the neighbor called to report that the 2-year-old was walking on the road with no shoes.
  
- ❖ The **Elk** family consists of a 23-year-old father, 22-year-old mother and 7-year-old son. The mother is well known by the child welfare staff due to her years spent in foster care. The mother admits that her husband has been drinking a lot, but states that everything will be okay as soon as he finds a good job. She notes that the father loves his son and would not hurt him; the injuries the child has suffered when alone with the father have all been unfortunate accidents. The mother reports that the son is doing well in his special needs classes at school.