

Case Examples - Intake

1. You are Jane Brown. You work in a factory in a large, urban area. You went into the restroom at work yesterday and saw one of your co-workers, a middle-aged woman named Nancy Johnson, sitting on the couch in the lounge area, crying. You tried not to embarrass her, since you don't know her well, and you kept going. You're sure she didn't see you. While you were in the toilet area, you overheard your friend Amy come in and start talking to Nancy, asking her why she was crying. Nancy refused to say anything at first, and then told Amy she had to talk to someone, she didn't know what to do. She said she was realizing that her husband had a very "unusual" relationship with their 15-year-old daughter. Her husband had always been very affectionate with their daughter, but Nancy felt he touched her too much. He often patted her on the butt, and he still pulled her into his lap. Nancy said she was getting too old for that. Lately, her husband was upset because their daughter was dating. When her daughter came home after a date at 11:30, her husband flew into a rage, interrogated her about her activities, and almost "accused her of sleeping with her boyfriend." Nancy said "I've never seen him so upset. It was like he was jealous." Nancy said several times in the past few months she had awakened in the middle of the night and found her husband sleeping with their daughter in their daughter's double bed. Nancy said she had recently seen a television program on incest, and it made her wonder if that was going on. If it was, she didn't know what she would do. She then said maybe her husband and daughter just had a "closer than usual relationship." She asked Amy to swear that she would never tell anyone, and that she wouldn't have said anything, except she had to talk to someone. They then left the lounge area. You are very concerned about the daughter, and decided to call Children and Youth Services to let them know what you had overheard.

2. You live in a neighborhood of duplexes. You went to your neighbor Lucille's the other day, because she had just moved into the neighborhood, and you hadn't seen her out in a while. You wondered how she was. You knew she had a little girl, and she was pregnant. You thought she might have had the baby. When you got to the door, the little girl, whom you think is about three years old, answered your knock. She was filthy, dressed in what looked to be a very soiled diaper and nothing else. She was holding a half-full baby bottle of milk. You asked where her mother was, and she said she didn't know. You stepped inside the house long enough to call for Lucille, and you got no answer. The bedroom door seemed to be closed. The odor in the house "almost knocked you over," but you couldn't figure out where it was coming from. There were two empty whiskey bottles on the couch. You figured that the little girl might have been left alone, and you decided to call Children and Youth Services and report it.

3. The teenager who lives next door to you is a 17-year-old whom you feel is totally out of her parents' control. Her parents are never at home, and when she's home alone, she has loud parties with crowds of kids. You've seen kids drinking in the bushes between your house and theirs, and they keep up the raucous noise for all hours. You think the police have been called, but nothing is ever done. You are very concerned about the effects of this on the neighbors' three other children, age 14, 12, and 10, who are often at home with their 17-year-old sister while the parents are out. You think all the children are neglected and need parental support. You think Children and Youth Services should be involved.

4. Your ex-daughter-in-law is expecting a baby. Your son filed for a divorce three months ago because his wife ran around all the time and had never provided good care for their child. Your son tried to get custody of their 4-year-old, and the Court would not give it to him. You think he was, by far, the best choice, because he is stable, he works steadily, and you could have kept the little girl during the day. He has told you that his ex-wife uses drugs, and that he has caught her with other men. He also thinks that his ex-wife takes the little girl to bars at night and keeps her out late. You worry constantly about your granddaughter, and you are especially worried about the new baby, who is due any day, even though your son thinks there's a real question as to whether the child is his. You think that your son is the legal father, since their divorce is not yet final. You would be willing to take both of the children and give them a good home. You hope Children and Youth Services can help.