

APPENDIX I

Cases for Interview Methods Role Play

The following role play scenarios may be used in the Interview Methods exercises in Section IX.

Case 1:

Louise Dawson, age 17, is the mother of two young children, age 2 and 4 months. She was referred to children's services by her own mother, Mary Dawson. Mary Dawson claimed that her daughter "never stayed in one place long enough to provide her children with a proper home" and "left her children in the care of strangers for long periods of time." Mary Dawson wants custody of her grandchildren. Louise Dawson has not completed school, and she supports her children on ADC. She has an apartment, but her mother reports that she is "never there," because she "always moves in with friends, or men." Mary Dawson also says her daughter leaves the children in her care for days at a time, and the children already think that Mary is their mother. Your interview is a first contact with Louise Dawson, whom you have found at her mother's.

(Substitute Larry for Louise, if role is played by a male.)

Case 2:

The Wilsons have been referred by school personnel because of alleged physical abuse of their 12 year old daughter, Carol. Carol came to school with a black eye and bruises around her head and face. When pressed, Carol indicated that her father and mother fought a lot, and that last night she tried to keep her father from "killing her mother" by physically pulling her father away from her mother. She claims she "got in the way" and "got a few punches myself." Carol appeared frightened, and asked the school personnel not to tell her parents that she told, because she feared for her mother's safety. She agreed to talk to a children's service worker in the hopes that someone could help her mother "get away" to safety. You are interviewing Carol at the school. You have not yet contacted the parents.

(Substitute Carl for Carol, if role is played by a male.)

Case 3:

Brian Jones is a 34 year old father of four children. His wife, Hillary, died in a car accident two years earlier. Mr. Jones has tried to keep the family intact ever since. He works two jobs, and depends upon his older children, age 17 and 15, to keep the track of the 11 and 8 year olds. Recently, he has become concerned that his oldest son, age 15, has been on drugs. His 17 year old daughter has had angry tantrums about having to take her mother's place, and has run away from home several times, alleging that her father has sexually fondled her. A thorough investigation revealed Mr. Jones to have been at work during the times when, according to his daughter, he had allegedly molested her. When confronted, the daughter indicated she was kind

of exaggerating about that." Mr. Jones is afraid if word about the investigation gets out, he will lose his job, and children. He appears to be profoundly depressed, and close to a break down. Your interview is a first contact with Mr. Jones after the investigation.

(Substitute Mrs. Jones for Mr. Jones, if role is played by a female. Mrs. Jones should have been accused of physically abusing her teenage daughter.)

Case 4:

The Bradford family has been an open case in the agency on and off for approximately 18 years. The current "head of family," Betty Bradford, age 31, was a foster child herself and was raised and emancipated by the agency. She had continual contact with her own biological family while in foster care. She has been referred several times since starting her own family for chronic neglect of her children. The most recent referral indicated that Betty's children were left untended for long periods of time. At the time of the investigation, Millie, age 14 months, had a severe, ulcerated diaper rash and eczema. Brian, age 2, did not talk, and sat unresponsively, in the corner of the room. Mike, age 3, was aggressive and destructive. Patrice, age 7, was dirty, had a history of school absence, and was doing poorly in school. A fifth child, Sam, who would have been 5, had died a year earlier from a brain injury sustained in a fall from a swing. Betty had not been considered negligent in the accident. Throughout the case records, Betty was described as likeable, sweet, caring person, who appeared to love her children. She was also described as impulsive, immature, self-centered, and of limited intelligence, though not mentally retarded. You are a new Child Welfare Professional assigned to provide intensive, in-home services to try to keep the children at home.

(Substitute Bill for Betty, if the role is to be played by a male. Bill was left with the responsibility of caring for his five children when his wife left town with another man.)

Case 5:

Wilma Dalton is a 65 year old grandmother who has cared for her grandson, Tom, since birth. Tom is now 8. Tom's father, Troy Dalton, has recently returned to town claiming that he has been "born again," and is now ready to assume full care of his son. Based on Troy's past history of drug involvement and scrapes with the law, Wilma has her doubts about Troy's "reform." Troy does not have a permanent place to stay, and Wilma doesn't want to disrupt Tom until she is sure her son is capable of providing a decent home for him. Wilma clearly states that she in no way wants to stand between her son and his child, and she has prayed often that Troy would do better. However, she is very concerned for Tom's safety. Troy has told her he will take her to court if she doesn't give him back his son. You are interviewing Wilma for the first time.

(Substitute Walter for Wilma, if role is to be played by a male.)

Case 6:

Eve Smith is a 40 year old single mother of two children, Patti, age 11 and Amy, age 7. She was referred to the agency for alleged abuse of the 7 year old. Eve has never married. Her children are both from a long-term relationship which had broken up 6 years earlier, several months after Amy was born. Eve's boyfriend had not wanted children. He had "taken to" Patti, however, and seemed not to mind her. He was angry when Eve became pregnant again, and accused her of having slept with another man. When Amy was 7 months old, he left. Eve quit her job to stay home with the children, and supports them on ADC. Amy was referred by her best friend's parents, who had noted bruises at various times all Amy's body. Amy was reticent to talk about it. Eve thinks Amy is "a lot like her father" -with a terrible temper, willful, obstinate, and ungrateful. Like him, "she doesn't appreciate what I've given her. She's selfish and only cares about herself." Your interview is with Eve. The investigation indicated a strong probability of abuse, but the case could not be substantiated enough to begin court action. The neighbors reports indicated no bruises on the head, face, or abdomen, and they had never seen anything they felt was serious enough to require medical treatment. The investigator has decided to leave Amy in the home with intensive, supportive services for Eve.

(Substitute Edward for Eve, if the role is played by a male.)

Case 7:

Todd Leonard, age 14, has been in foster placement with the Hansen's for six years. Just recently, his biological mother has returned after an absence of 6 years and has notified the agency that she wants to see Todd. Mrs. Hansen, the foster caregiver, has serious concerns about Todd's resuming a relationship with his mother. She feels Todd has made significant gains in their home, and sees himself as "a part of our family." She remembers Todd's "terrible, terrible behavior" when he was originally removed from his family, and she is afraid he will regress if he sees his mother. Your interview is with Mrs. Hansen.

(Substitute Mr. Hansen for Mrs. Hansen if role is played by a male.)

Case 8:

Dana King, age 9, was placed for adoption with the Sutherland family two years earlier. The Sutherlands had known Dana through their church. Dana was taken into care when her mother, who was addicted to drugs, eventually committed suicide. Dana had some emotionally problems, but a through psychological assessment indicated her to be generally emotionally intact. Dana has not been able to adjust to the adoptive placement, and while her behavior has not been a problem, her adoptive parents complain that she "just doesn't fit in-it's like she doesn't care whether we're here or not." Dana is withdrawn, unresponsive, doesn't want to be with them, expresses no affection, and at times, recoils when they approach her. They have taken Dana to counseling, with no success. They feel helpless and hopeless about their situation. The Sutherlands have two grown children who are at college. This is your first interview with Ted (or Terri) Sutherland.

Case 9:

Inez Hidalgo is a 31 year old mother of 3. She came to this country as a child of migrant farm workers. Her family eventually settled, and her father took a job in a canning factory. Inez eloped with a Caucasian boy at age 17, and had her first child 5 months later. Her husband was rude and disrespectful to her family, and Inez sided with her husband, which alienated her from her family. The family managed for several years, until her husband became ill and subsequently died. Inez has tried to manage her family on her own, with payments from her husband's social security. She is chronically short on money, and because she never had to manage on her own, is having severe difficulty in making ends meet. She has recently been evicted from her shabby apartment for nonpayment of rent, and she and her children, age 14, 12, and 9, have been staying in a short-term shelter for the homeless. Her 14-year old was recently arrested for riding in a stolen car, and for possession of drugs. When asked whether her family could help her, Inez indicated she was much too ashamed to go to them for help. You are interviewing Inez to identify appropriate resources to which she can be referred for help.

(Substitute Raul for Inez, if role is played by a male.)

Case 10:

Dennis Thomas is a 21 year old single male. He has made a complaint against his ex-wife, Sallie, whom he claims is neglecting their 3-year old daughter Laura. He and Sallie, age 25, had been married for four years. Sallie, had lived with a boyfriend prior to her marriage to Dennis, and had a child through that relationship. This child was in the custody of her paternal grandparents. Sallie left Dennis, claiming she was "bored" and "tired of his demands." She wanted a "more exciting" life. Dennis claims that "more exciting" meant "running around, sleeping around, and drinking around." Friends of his indicated they had seen Sallie at the bar at 10:00 at night with Laura in tow. When he asked these friends to testify, they indicated that they "didn't want to get in the middle." Dennis wants custody of his daughter. He indicates that his mother can care for Laura while he is at work. He has filed the complaint to request that the agency consider giving him custody of his child. The investigation Child Welfare Professional could not locate Sallie during the initial attempts. Dennis has come to your office to plead his case.

(Substitute Helen for Dennis, if role is to be played by a female. Her ex-husband will have "stolen" the child when he left her, and was retaining physical custody without the benefit of a court action.)